



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2020
VIA DIGITAL MEETING FACILITY

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Committee Members Present:

Provost J McMillan (Convener)	Councillor C Hoy
Councillor S Akhtar	Councillor W Innes
Councillor L Bruce	Councillor S Kempson
Councillor S Currie	Councillor G Mackett
Councillor F Dugdale	Councillor K Mackie
Councillor J Findlay	Councillor C McGinn
Councillor A Forrest	Councillor P McLennan
Councillor N Gilbert	Councillor K McLeod
Councillor J Goodfellow	Councillor F O'Donnell
Councillor N Hampshire	Councillor T Trotter
Councillor J Henderson	Councillor J Williamson

Council Officials Present:

Ms M Patterson, Chief Executive
Ms A MacDonald, Director of Health and Social Care
Mr A McCrorie, Depute Chief Executive
Ms L Brown, Head of Education & Children's Services
Ms S Fortune, Chief Operating Officer – Finance
Mr J Lamond, Head of Council Resources
Mr D Proudfoot, Head of Development
Mr T Reid, Head of Infrastructure
Ms J Tait, Chief Operating Officer – Children's Services
Mr M Bedwell, School Estate Planning Officer
Ms T Carlyle, Group Service Manager – Rehabilitation and Access
Mr S Cooper, Team Manager – Communications
Mr N Craik-Collins, Education Service Manager
Ms R Crichton, Committees Officer
Ms F Currie, Committees Officer
Mr C Grilli, Service Manager – Legal and Procurement
Mr K Dingwall, Service Manager – Planning
Ms L Kerr, Interim Business General Manager (Adult Wellbeing)
Mr M Mackowiak, Planner
Mr G Marsden, Planning Obligation Officer
Ms C Molloy, Project Manager
Mr E Reid, Service Manager – Strategic Asset and Capital Plan
Ms A Smith, Committees Officer
Mr P Vestri, Service Manager – Corporate Policy and Improvement

Visitors Present:

None

Clerk:

Mrs L Gillingwater

Apologies:

None

Declarations of Interest:

Item 6 – Councillor McLennan declared an interest on account of his employment status.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Provost advised that the meeting was being held remotely, in accordance with the Scottish Government's guidance on physical distancing; that the meeting would be recorded and live streamed; and that it would be made available via the Council's website as a webcast, in order to allow public access to the democratic process in East Lothian. He noted that the Council was the data controller under the Data Protection Act 2018; that data collected as part of the recording would be retained in accordance with the Council's policy on record retention; and that the webcast of the meeting would be publicly available for up to six months from the date of the meeting.

The clerk recorded attendance by roll call.

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The minutes of the following meeting were approved: East Lothian Council, 27 October 2020.

2. MINUTES FOR NOTING

The minutes of the following meeting were noted: East Lothian Local Review Body (Planning), 10 September 2020.

3. CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

A report was submitted by the Chief Social Work Officer, presenting her Annual Report for 2019/20.

The Chief Social Work Officer, Judith Tait, provided a detailed overview of her report, advising that it focused on the current demands on social work services and the future shape of those services. She spoke of the focus on solutions to enable children and adults to remain within their own communities, and the importance of partnership working to improve services. She also drew attention to the positive evaluations of recent inspections, as well as increasing capacity for early intervention. However, she warned of the impact of COVID-19 on mental health services, poverty levels, violence against women and carer stress. She referred to ongoing changes within social work services to ensure long-term sustainability and the commitment of staff to deliver service improvements.

In response to questions from Councillor O'Donnell, Ms Tait advised that since the closure of Haddington Sheriff Court in 2015, there had been a significant reduction in the number of community payback orders for people from East Lothian. However, there was no evidence

that East Lothian residents were being incarcerated at a higher rate. She noted that information on the extension for the presumption against short-term sentences was not yet available. On information-sharing, Members were informed that robust systems were in place and that the Council worked with HMP Edinburgh to ensure plans were in place to help released prisoners to reintegrate into their community.

Councillor Forrest asked about current levels of expenditure within social work services. Ms Tait reminded him that as this report was concerned with 2019/20, it would not reflect current expenditure levels, although costs had increased as a result of COVID-19. She advised that additional funding had been awarded to the Council for specific social work services, such as children's mental health services. She offered to provide further information outwith the meeting.

Councillor Akhtar asked how the challenges facing social work services would be addressed. She was advised that the approach to reducing domestic violence would be reviewed, that the commissioning of services within the Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) was being considered, that additional resources would be allocated to address the Covid-19-related backlog, and that working methods, e.g. working from home, would be looked at. Ms Tait commented that staff had welcomed the opportunity to work more flexibly; however, she stressed the value of face-to-face contact and positive relationships when providing social work services.

Councillor Dugdale asked for further detail on adult social care referrals and assessments. Ms Tait explained that an increase in referrals alongside a decrease in assessments could be positive, as it demonstrated that people were being directed to the right services without the need for lengthy assessments.

As regards mental health services, Trish Carlyle, Group Service Manager – Rehabilitation and Access, advised that existing staff were being supported to undertake training which would allow them to apply for other posts within the service, which would increase capacity.

Responding to questions from Councillor Currie on the review of adult social care and post-Brexit planning, Alison MacDonald, Director of Health and Social Care, advised that mobilisation plans were reviewed regularly to ensure they were fit for purpose. She explained that the HSCP worked with providers in the independent and third sectors, and that there were no specific issues as regards the current workforce, although Brexit may have an impact on future recruitment. On complex care cases, she advised that there were no significant issues with clients being placed externally, and that the HSCP worked with the Council's Housing Team to bring clients back to East Lothian.

Councillor Bruce asked if there were any concerns over staff workload. Ms Tait highlighted the importance of early intervention and preventative measures. She advised that referral levels were monitored, including looking at trends and data from previous years, and that managers ensured that officer workload was appropriate. On the capacity of mental health officers, Ms Carlyle noted that appropriately trained staff from other teams could be brought in to assist this service on an ad hoc basis to respond to demand. Ms Tait undertook to provide further information to Members on the numbers of qualified social work staff.

In response to a question from Councillor Goodfellow on drug and alcohol abuse, Ms Tait indicated that there was no significant difference in the figures between 2018 and 2019, although there had been an increase in female cases in 2019.

On the recruitment of foster carers, Ms Tait reported that recruitment was going well and that retention rates were strong. She added that efforts would be made to recruit befriending

families through one of the Council's commissioned services, which would hopefully lead to more people becoming aware of the opportunity to take up fostering.

Councillor O'Donnell thanked Ms Tait for her report, and paid tribute to social work staff, the Council's partners and those in the third sector who delivered services. She expressed concern at the rise in the number of Universal Credit claimants in East Lothian, and also the potential impact of a no-deal Brexit. She emphasised the need to protect social work services and service users in light of the challenges facing the Council.

Councillor Currie welcomed the report and the approach taken by the Council and its partners to deliver services. On mobilisation plans, he advised that further funding would be made available. He welcomed that outcomes for individuals was the Council's priority, and thanked everyone involved for their commitment.

Councillor Hoy made reference to the '16 days of activism against gender-based violence' campaign, urging the Council and local businesses to sign the campaign pledge. [Note – it was pointed out later in the meeting that the Depute Leader had signed this pledge.] He highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on gender-based inequality and violence, suggesting that the Council should prioritise efforts to tackle this issue.

Councillor McGinn drew Members' attention to the 2019 inspection of Lothian Villa, which had been rated 'excellent' for the quality of care and support provided to the young people, and for the quality of staffing. He paid tribute to the staff for their professionalism and commitment.

Councillor Akhtar concluded the debate by thanking Ms Tait, Ms MacDonald and their staff for their work to ensure the best outcomes for children and families. She highlighted the levels of child poverty in East Lothian, and the increase in Universal Credit applications, which had put significant pressure on families, and also the added demands on services associated with COVID-19. She echoed Councillor McGinn's comments as regards Lothian Villa, and made mention of the importance of corporate parenting and fostering services, as well as additional services provided at the Olive Bank Child and Family Centre. She agreed with comments made as regards tackling gender-based inequality and violence.

Decision

The Council agreed to note the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report 2019/20.

4. FINANCIAL UPDATE INCLUDING FINANCIAL AND CAPITAL STRATEGY 2021-26

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) providing an update on progress of the mitigation actions currently being pursued to manage the funding deficit of the Council in the current financial year, and setting out an updated Financial and Capital Strategy for the Council, covering the five year period 2021-26.

The Chief Operating Officer for Finance, Sarah Fortune, presented the report, advising Members that the Council's financial position would remain fluid for the remainder of the financial year and that it was difficult to make accurate forecasts at this time. She informed Members that the draft spending plans for the public sector would not be known until the end of January 2021, and it was difficult to estimate grant funding levels for 2021/22 and beyond. She drew attention to a number of key aspects of the Financial Strategy, including the medium-term outlook for the General Services budget, the impact of the Local Development Plan, the Council's Capital Programme, the current position with reserves, efficiency savings delivered, and the situation with the Housing Revenue Account. Ms Fortune warned that the Council

was facing significant financial challenges and risks, and that further work was required to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

In response to questions from Councillor Currie, Ms Fortune advised that the current arrangements in place for PPP contracts would be reviewed in accordance with new statutory guidance on fiscal flexibility (which was yet to be received). On the loss of income scheme, she advised that the returns information was still to be collated, but anticipated that the Council's share of the funding would not cover its expenditure. As regards efficiency savings, she noted that the vast majority of planned efficiencies would be delivered by the end of the financial year, but that some planned savings relating to income generation would be impacted by COVID-19. She added that mitigation measures were in place to manage the deficit, but warned that the impact of the pandemic would continue into the next financial year. On the reserves position, Ms Fortune indicated that it was necessary to hold an appropriate level of reserves in order to be able to respond to uncertainties, and that the Council's reserves had been impacted by COVID-19.

Councillor McLeod asked if the Council had taken out any short- or long-term loans with English local authorities. Ms Fortune confirmed that the Council had no such loans, and therefore there was no risk to the Council in that respect.

Councillor McLennan asked for further detail on the transformation programme, commenting that the Council should be more entrepreneurial. Jim Lamond, Head of Council Resources, stated that, going forward, the Council would need to reduce its costs or generate additional income, or both. However, he reminded Members that the Council had to operate in accordance with the law, which could be restrictive. Ms Fortune commented that Members would be involved in such decisions through the budget-setting process and setting of policy.

On a question from Councillor McLennan on HRA capital funding, Douglas Proudfoot, Head of Development, advised that East Lothian Mid Market Homes had been established in 2019 to manage 50 new homes in Dunbar, and that there were plans to expand that company. He also noted that work was ongoing with the Scottish Government and Scottish Futures Trust to meet housing demand, and that other funding sources were being explored.

Councillor Bruce asked if there was a deadline by which the Council would have to exercise its fiscal flexibility. Ms Fortune advised that it was not yet certain what flexibility was available to the Council, and that it was important to get guidance on this as soon as possible, as fiscal flexibility was a temporary measure. Mr Lamond added that clarity on this would be vital for the budget development process.

Councillor O'Donnell asked how a no-deal Brexit would affect the Capital Strategy. Ms Fortune indicated that Brexit was one of the uncertainties facing the Council, and that it could result in a variety of impacts and risks, including supply chains, increased cost base, and wider economic uncertainty. Mr Lamond added that was a critical issue for the Council's ambitious capital programme, and that the strategy took this into account.

Councillor Hampshire paid tribute to Council staff for their work to deliver services during very difficult circumstances. He expressed concern about the current financial position and the difficulties in delivering efficiency savings during the pandemic. However, he was confident that the Council could achieve a balanced position by the end of the financial year due to the controls and mitigation measures in place. He warned that the economy would be severely damaged by COVID-19, that Brexit would also have an impact on the UK economy, and that the Council would need to make difficult decisions when setting the budget. He reported that CoSLA had estimated that Scottish local authorities had incurred £227m of COVID-19-related expenditure, but that the Scottish Government had only provided £90m to cover this. He advised that he had written to the Scottish Government seeking full funding for these costs.

He reiterated the financial challenges facing the Council and called on all Members for their support in setting the 2021/22 budget.

Councillor Currie agreed that without additional funding, it would be a challenge for the Council to deliver services. He also stressed the need to be in a position to set multi-year budgets, which was difficult if the UK and Scottish Governments continued to provide one-year settlements. He voiced his concern as regards the potential impacts of Brexit on the delivery of services and on jobs.

The Provost moved to the vote on the recommendations, taken by roll call, which were approved unanimously.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the current progress of mitigation actions being taken to manage the 2021/21 General Services funding deficit; and
- ii. to approve the overarching Financial Strategy, set out in Appendix 1 to the report, together with the Capital Strategy, attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

5. EDINBURGH AND SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND CITY REGION DEAL – ANNUAL CONVERSATION AND FOOD AND DRINK INNOVATION UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Head of Development summarising the Annual Conversation that took place on 18 November 2020 and updating Members on the progress on the development of the Full Business Case to be submitted to the UK and Scottish Governments to enable the drawdown of the £30m funding package, and the progress of the Commercial Heads of Terms (as detailed in the private report to Council on 15 December 2020 titled 'Commercial Heads of Terms between ELC and QMU for the Delivery of the Food and Drink Innovation Hub and Park'.

Catherine Molloy, Project Manager, presented the report, updating Members on the recent Annual Conversation and the progress of the development of the Full Business Case, noting that the first draft of the document had been submitted to the Government on 4 December. A feedback session on the draft had taken place on 7 December which had been positive, with a further session scheduled during the current week. She reminded Members that the target date for submission of the Full Business Case was March 2021, and that all parties were working towards having it approved during the current financial year.

Councillor Hampshire stressed the importance of the City Region Deals to Scotland's economy, and that significant progress on the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal had been made in comparison to other areas; this had been recognised by the UK and Scottish Governments. He welcomed the progress made and thanked all those involved in the process.

Endorsing Councillor Hampshire's comments, Councillor McLennan spoke of the importance of the food and drink sector in East Lothian, noting that the City Region Deal would provide opportunities to expand this sector. He hoped that expansion could be accommodated within East Lothian.

The Provost made reference to positive discussions with the Principal of Queen Margaret University on the City Region Deal. He also paid tribute to Councillor Innes for his input.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the summary findings of the second Annual Conversation;
- ii. to note the progress of the development of the Full Business Case, to be submitted to both the UK and Scottish Governments to enable the drawdown of £30m grant funding; and
- iii. to note the progress of the Commercial Heads of Terms.

6. EAST LOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018 – ACTION PROGRAMME UPDATE 2020

A report was submitted by the Head of Development seeking approval of the Draft Local Development Plan 2018 Action Programme Update 2020 prior to its publication and submission to Scottish Ministers. The Action Programme Update 2020 reported progress on achieving the key stages of each project included in the Action Programme that was previously approved by Council in 2018.

Declaration of Interest: having declared an interest on account of his employment status, Councillor McLennan left the meeting for the duration of this item.

Keith Dingwall, Service Manager for Planning, presented the report, advising of the obligation on the Council to keep the Action Programme under review. He noted that progress on the Action Programme had been monitored through regular meetings of the Section 75 Group. He drew attention to the updated Action Programme, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and to the engagement with key agencies (responses attached as Appendix 2 to the report). He noted that officers would continue to monitor the effectiveness of LDP policies, and that all relevant supplementary planning guidance had now been adopted.

In response to questions from Councillor O'Donnell, Tom Reid, Head of Infrastructure, advised that a STAG transport appraisal was currently taking place across East Lothian. He noted that region-wide consideration was being given to transport and connectivity, which included stakeholders such as the Rail Forum and options for four-track and high-speed services through East Lothian, but that this would take some years to deliver.

Mr Dingwall undertook to respond to Councillors O'Donnell, Williamson and Findlay outwith the meeting on specific matters that they had raised.

Councillor Hampshire made reference to the scale of development taking place across East Lothian, and of the complexities of providing infrastructure to support new developments. He paid tribute to staff across the Council for their role in delivering the Local Development Plan.

Councillor Bruce commented that the report demonstrated that the Council was meeting its obligations, and that there was no need for other sites, such as Goshen Farm (currently subject of an appeal to the Scottish Government), to be added.

The Provost moved to the vote on the recommendation, taken by roll call, which was approved unanimously.

Decision

The Council agreed to approve the Draft Local Development Plan 2018 Action Programme 2020 (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) for publication and submission to Scottish Ministers.

7. REFORM OF CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL'S FULLY OR PARTLY OWNED TRANSPORT COMPANIES

A report was submitted by the Head of Infrastructure advising Council that the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) had commenced a review of the governance arrangements for its transport Arms-length External Organisations (ALEOs). The report sought approval for the model favoured by Council officers.

The Head of Infrastructure, Tom Reid, presented the report, advising of a recent CEC meeting, where a report on the future of its transport ALEOs had been considered. He reminded Members that East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils had between them a 9% share in Lothian Buses, which currently had a very successful delivery model that did not require funding from any of the shareholder councils. He stressed the importance of protecting East Lothian's bus services, pointing out that CEC's preferred model for future delivery may prioritise tram services to the detriment of bus services in the Lothians.

In response to a question from Councillor Henderson on the dilution of existing interests, Mr Reid indicated that the minority shareholders would have limited powers and there could be a dilution if the ALEOs were brought together under a single entity; hence, the officers' position on supporting a model which would bring the trams under the control of Lothian Buses. Carlo Grilli, Service Manager – Legal, added that there would be greater protection for the minority shareholders if their views were aligned and if they had a position on the Board. He also noted that the Council would have a right of pre-emption if additional shares were released. Mr Reid agreed that unity among the minority shareholders was key, noting that both Midlothian Council and West Lothian Council would also be discussing this matter soon.

Councillor Hampshire spoke of the excellent bus services in East Lothian provided by East Coast Buses (part of Lothian Buses). Whilst he understood CEC's desire to rationalise its transport operations arrangements, he was concerned that this may impact on the successful model of Lothian Buses, especially in light of the impact of COVID-19 on the use of public transport. He urged Members to reach a cross-party view on the matter and to work together to ensure the continuation of high-quality bus services in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Councillor Currie spoke in support of the report recommendations, pointing out that it was important to minimise the risk to service levels and to protect Lothian Buses as part of the wider transport network. He also made reference to the role of public transport in tackling the climate emergency.

Councillor Bruce voiced his concern at CEC's proposals, and of the timing of the proposed changes, in light of COVID-19. He was of the view that any proposals for change should not be progressed pending the outcome of the public inquiry into the trams. He was also concerned that decisions on transport across the Lothians would be made by CEC; that the trams would need to be subsidised by the buses, resulting in increased fares; and that bus services in East Lothian could be put at risk.

The Provost moved to the vote on the recommendations, taken by roll call, which were approved unanimously.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the officers' preferred approach to support the retention of a separate successful limited company (Lothian Buses) that operates quality transport services across the Lothians, including the capital city; and
- ii. to support the proposal that the trams network comes under the control of Lothian Buses to govern both the operation of the bus and tram network and other transport systems in the Lothians, provided that:
 - agreement is reached that any future company model should continue to operate on a commercial basis and at arm's length from CEC, as majority shareholder (CEC currently has a 91% shareholding in Lothian Buses);
 - any proposal regarding the governance would protect the operational businesses of Lothian Buses; and
 - there should be minority shareholder representation in any new governance arrangements.

8. UPDATE ON THE EAST LOTHIAN LEARNING ESTATE REVIEW

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) providing an update on the progress of the Learning Estate Review (LER) and the timeline for pre-consultation activity planned for 2021.

The Head of Education and Children's Services, Lesley Brown, presented the report, advising that all local authorities were now required to review their learning estate and prepare a learning estate investment plan. She provided an update on the progress of the review, advising that stakeholders would have an opportunity to put forward their views in February 2021 through a questionnaire (attached at Appendix 1 to the report), to be followed by community engagement workshops in May 2021. Ms Brown also advised that the Council had submitted bids for Scottish Government funding to improve the learning estate; an announcement on this was due before the end of the year. She advised that a further update report on the review would come to Council in 2021.

Councillor Hoy asked if there would be a review of catchment areas. Ms Brown confirmed that catchment areas would be considered as part of the review, and that any Council decision to change catchment areas would involve a further statutory process.

Councillor McLennan asked about the procedure for extending or building new schools where there was insufficient space in their current location. Ms Brown advised that there was a statutory process for rebuilding schools in different locations.

Responding to comments made by Councillor McLennan in relation to East Linton Primary School, Councillor Hampshire pointed out that he had made it clear at a recent Dunsperder Community Council meeting that the Council wanted to extend the existing school. However, the building was old and in poor condition, and would require significant funding to upgrade it. As there was insufficient land on the school site, he had sought the views of the Community Council on rebuilding the school on an alternative site, noting that the Council would require Scottish Government funding to build a new school and it would be subject to consultation. He noted that the Community Council had indicated their support for that option if it was available. He stressed that he had not said that this option was currently available as the Council did not have the funds.

Councillor Akhtar thanked officers for their work in securing Scottish Government funding for Whitecraig Primary School and the Wallyford Learning Facility. She highlighted the importance of having modern, high-quality learning facilities for the growing population in East Lothian, and pointed out that the investment plan was a vital component of this. She urged Members to encourage constituents to participate in the process.

Councillor Hoy commented that catchment reviews in a number of areas were required, remarking that the current arrangements in these areas were illogical, and were detrimental to community cohesion and the environment. He encouraged officers to bring forward a formal review on catchment and asked for a report to the Education Committee on this matter.

Concluding the debate, Councillor Currie welcomed the report, particularly the engagement with communities and the opportunities to get additional funding for the learning estate. He did, however, stress the importance of managing people's expectations, and pointed out the complexities involved in reviewing catchment areas. He also asked for a report to the Education Committee on this matter.

Decision

The Council agreed to note the update provided and the timeline associated with the pre-consultation activity.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION – PUBLIC SECTOR PAY FREEZE

A motion was submitted by Councillors McLennan and Currie regarding the public sector pay freeze:

'This Council condemns that the UK Government is proposing a public sector pay freeze for the vast majority of employees and a below inflation rise for even the lowest paid employees as part of the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review.

Council notes that the role of public service workers has been critical in responding to and helping both Scotland and East Lothian manage the impact of COVID-19 and considers that without the hard work of public servants, especially front-line workers, such as cleaners and care assistants, we would not have been able to protect this county and support vulnerable people to the extent that we have through this crisis.

Council recognises that the economic impact of COVID-19 goes far beyond the public sector, but agrees the specific contribution of public sector employees should be recognised and appropriately rewarded.

Council also recognises the major impact in Barnett consequentials of the UK Government's decision which will undermine the Scottish Government's ability to fund uplifts.

Council therefore requests the Council Leader writes to the UK Government to make clear that public sector workers should be paid fairly and appropriately by fully funding any future pay increases that are agreed between public sector employers and trade unions, including for those working in public services in Scotland by allocating the necessary funds to the Scottish Government.'

The clerk advised that two amendments had been received in respect of this motion, submitted by the Administration and the Conservative Group; the amendments had been circulated to all Members in advance of the meeting.

Councillor McLennan presented his motion, advising that it had been submitted in response to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's recent statement (on 25 November 2020) that there would be a public sector pay freeze. He made reference to Chancellor's statement in which he had reported that private sector pay had fallen by almost 1% over the six months to September in comparison to the previous year, and that public sector pay had increased by almost 4% during the same period. The Chancellor had also argued that, unlike workers in the public sector, many workers in the private sector had lost their jobs, been furloughed or had their salaries capped. Councillor McLennan argued that public sector workers were being punished for what had happened in the private sector. He pointed out that the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Kate Forbes, had declared that the pay freeze would not be imposed on public sector workers in Scotland. He noted that the Scottish Government was due to announce its tax and spending plans at the end of January, ahead of the UK Government budget, which was scheduled to take place in late March. On the impact of a public sector pay freeze, he argued that the economy relied on strong public services. He asked Councillor Hoy if he would be supporting the public sector pay freeze should Douglas Ross be successful in becoming the First Minister in May 2021. Concluding his statement, Councillor McLennan called on Members to support the motion and the work of Council staff, and support a pay award for next year.

Councillor Currie seconded the motion, remarking that public sector workers tended to be penalised whenever there was a recession or additional borrowing was required. He welcomed the £500 payment for health and social care workers, but suggested that additional funding should be requested for the workforce. He criticised the UK Government for thanking key workers for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, but then freezing their pay. He called on Members to support the motion, declaring that he would be prepared to support the amendment submitted by the Administration.

The Provost invited Councillor Bruce to present his amendment, as set out below, noting that this amendment had been received first.

'This Council recognises that the UK Government is operating under intense financial constraints as a result of Covid-19, and, as a result:

- Would like to thank our public sector workers for their huge contribution and selfless dedication during the pandemic.
- Strongly supports UK Government efforts to deliver pay increases for the lowest paid public sector workers and frontline NHS staff.
- Recognises the need for prudent public sector pay restraint in order that financial support can be targeted toward those hit hardest by the economic consequences of COVID-19.
- Recognises that COVID-19 has widened pay disparity between public sector workers and those in the private sector: noting that public sector workers have seen an average 4% wage increase, compared to a 1% reduction in private sector wages, in the six months to September (compared to the same period last year).
- Notes that the Scottish Government has full control of, and responsibility for, public sector pay in Scotland.
- Welcomes significant additional funding of £8.2 billion given to the Scottish Government from the UK Government through the Barnett formula this year and welcomes the further £2.4 billion in funding that will

flow to the Scottish Budget in 2021-22 following the Chancellor's Spending Review.

- Requests that East Lothian Council writes to the Scottish Government to ask that any public sector wage increases agreed by the Scottish Government are funded from this direct funding increase to Scotland by the UK Government.'

Councillor Bruce presented the amendment, advising that it set out what the UK Government was doing in respect of public sector pay, and how Scotland would benefit from an increase through the block grant, noting that whenever spending was increased in the UK, Scotland benefited. Remarking that the SNP motion amounted to 'political opportunism', he pointed out that public sector pay was the responsibility of the Scottish Government. He argued that the pandemic had damaged the UK economy and hit the private sector hardest, resulting in the UK Government proposing a prudent, pragmatic and fair short-term freeze for some public sector workers, whilst ensuring that frontline and the lowest-paid workers would be rewarded. He claimed that this move would see more money coming to Scotland; however, to protect jobs, a pay rise for other public sector workers would be paused. He added that the living wage would see an increase to £8.91 per hour, and there would also be an increase in the minimum wage, which would give a further two million people a pay rise this year. He accepted that the pay freeze would have an impact on public sector workers; however, he believed that the majority of those workers in England would receive a pay rise the following year. He commented that it was difficult to justify awarding significant pay rises to all public sector workers at a time when the private sector had been hit hard by the pandemic; instead, increases should be directed to those in need and frontline NHS staff. He noted that an increase in public sector pay would result in an increase in taxes. Councillor Bruce reminded Members that the UK Government had awarded £8.2 billion of additional funding to the Scottish Government during the pandemic, and a further £2.4 billion would be made available, including through the Barnett Formula – he believed that this was sufficient to cover public sector pay rises should the Scottish Government choose to prioritise that. He was opposed to the Scottish Government asking the UK Government for further funding, noting that an independent Scotland would not be in a position to do this. He called on Members to support the amendment, and to write to the Scottish Government to ask that any public sector pay increases be funded from the direct funding increase to Scotland by the UK Government. Councillor Bruce concluded his presentation by describing the motion as a 'pre-election stunt', and stressing that the Scottish Government should not be asking for further funds from the UK Government.

Councillor Findlay seconded the amendment.

The Provost invited Councillor Hampshire to present his amendment, as set out below.

'This Council condemns that the UK Government is proposing a public sector pay freeze for the vast majority of employees and a below inflation rise for even the lowest paid employees as part of the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review.

Council notes that the role of public service workers has been critical in responding to and helping both Scotland and East Lothian manage the impact of COVID-19 and considers that without the hard work of public servants, especially front-line workers, such as cleaners and care assistants, we would not have been able to protect this county and support vulnerable people to the extent that we have through this crisis.

Council agrees that whilst the Scottish Government's announcement to pay £500 (full-time equivalent) to NHS and social care staff is welcomed and deserved, it

has missed tens of thousands of public sector workers in local government, who have been working throughout the pandemic.

Council recognises that local government has been operating under extremely difficult circumstances, including (noting that this is not an exhaustive list): distributing food/medicine/essential items across Scotland, protecting/caring for our vulnerable and elderly, collecting waste, staffing temporary mortuaries, staffing the hubs of “key worker” children, keeping schools and early years open, staffing the asymptomatic testing sites, Environmental Health and Trading Standards officers enforcing public health and wellbeing, mental health workers with increased caseloads, housing and craft workers who have been working in tenants’ homes, the army of cleaning staff who have done a brilliant job in our care homes/essential buildings/schools, and those who have been issuing emergency support grants.

Council recognises the efforts made by many other key workers in the public, private and 3rd sectors in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Council calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that it recognises the efforts across our “one workforce” in local government and lobby Scottish Government to ensure that this payment is extended to all Covid-19 responders and key workers across local government and that they are rewarded equally. Council seeks their public assurance that Scottish Government will fully fund the payment and costs associated with the delivery of this payment.

Council recognises that the economic impact of COVID-19 goes far beyond the public sector, but agrees the specific contribution of public sector employees should be recognised and appropriately rewarded.

Council also recognises the major impact in Barnett consequentials of the UK Government’s decision which will undermine the Scottish Government’s ability to fund uplifts. Council also calls on the Scottish Government to distribute all Barnett consequentials for local government already allocated to the Scottish Government to stop further cuts to Council services.

Council therefore requests the Council Leader writes to the UK and Scottish Governments to make clear that public sector workers should all be treated equally and paid fairly. The UK Government should fully fund any future pay increases that are agreed between public sector employers and trade unions, including for those working in public services in Scotland by allocating the necessary funds to the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government should replicate this by fully funding Scottish local government for all future agreed pay increases in addition to their future local government funding settlements.’

Councillor Hampshire moved his amendment, advising that the Administration was prepared to support the SNP Group’s motion if it incorporated their amendment. He made reference to a recent debate at CoSLA on the additional funding being made available to NHS and care workers, whilst excluding many other local government staff who had worked to protect communities during the pandemic. He declared that he could not support the UK Government’s position on freezing pay for those who had helped protect the country from the effects of COVID-19, arguing that taking money out of the economy would make the post-pandemic recession worse. He believed that the additional funding awarded to the Scottish Government should be passed on to councils, which were struggling to balance their budgets. He called on the SNP Group to support the Administration’s amendment, which included the amendment approved by all 32 Council Leaders at CoSLA.

Councillor Akhtar seconded the amendment, commenting on the 'heroic' efforts of Council staff during the pandemic, and calling on Members to send a clear message to all public sector workers that their efforts to keep people safe during such challenging times were valued. She disputed claims that this was a 'political stunt' on the basis that all 32 Council Leaders from across the political spectrum at CoSLA had approved an amendment with the same text, and that the Trades Unions had also supported this position. She also noted the need for openness and transparency around the Barnett consequentials, and for any pay increase to be fully funded.

The Provost moved to the debate.

Opening the debate, Councillor Hoy claimed that the Council was not being asked to vote on the policy of the UK or Scottish Governments on public sector pay; rather, it was being asked to support or challenge the devolution settlement. He advised that the Conservative Group amendment was in line with the devolution settlement and the way in which revenues were shared across the UK. He claimed that the motion demonstrated that the SNP was opposed to devolution, and that the Labour Group, by supporting the motion, was not defending the devolution settlement. He further claimed that the motion did not address the fact that the Scottish Government was responsible for public sector pay in Scotland, and that the Council was therefore being asked to make a 'false choice'. He remarked that it had been brought forward as 'political electioneering'. Councillor Hoy argued that the additional funding awarded to the Scottish Government due to COVID-19 should be prioritised for households hit hardest by COVID-19, regardless of whether those people worked in the public or private sector. He spoke of the significant additional funding provided by the UK Government to assist with the effects of the pandemic, noting that more than 17,000 workers in East Lothian had had their income supported through the furlough and self-employment support schemes. He believed that making party political points at this time would do a disservice to those people who had been impacted by COVID-19.

Councillor O'Donnell remarked that the position of the Conservative Group was 'confused and incoherent', noting that they had supported free school meals for all primary school children but were opposed to pay increases for public sector workers. She claimed that the Conservative Group had an 'ideological problem' as regards public sector pay, and that they had been selective in the time-period they had cited in their amendment. She called on them to take action to ensure that low-paid workers in the private sector were rewarded for their work. She disputed comments made by Councillor Hoy as regards the devolution settlement, making reference to recent comments made by the Prime Minister, which she believed was the greatest threat to devolution at this time. She declared that she would support the SNP Group's motion, as amended by the Administration, which acknowledged the contributions made by public sector workers during the pandemic, and which was also supported by CoSLA.

Councillor McGinn echoed the comments of Councillor O'Donnell. He made reference to demonstrations of support for public sector workers during the pandemic, highlighting that those workers should be rewarded financially for working under difficult circumstances.

Summing up, Councillor McLennan confirmed that the SNP Group would support the amendment to the motion as proposed by the Administration. He declared that there would be a pay rise for Scottish public sector workers. He claimed that Councillor Bruce had been selective with his amendment, in that he did not make mention of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which had called for the two-child benefit cap to be scrapped and the Universal Credit increase to be made permanent, nor had he mentioned the additional £10 per child per week in Scotland, which would make a big difference to those families. He argued that the Conservative Group did not value public sector workers as much as those in the private sector, adding that a vote for the Conservatives would be a vote for a public sector pay freeze.

The Provost moved to the vote on the Conservative Group's amendment, which was taken by roll call:

For (7): Councillors Bruce, Findlay, Henderson, Hoy, Kempson, Mackett, Mackie

Against (14): Councillors Akhtar, Currie, Dugdale, Forrest, Gilbert, Goodfellow, Hampshire, McGinn, McLennan, McLeod, McMillan, O'Donnell, Trotter, Williamson

The Conservative Group's amendment therefore fell.

The Provost moved to the vote on the SNP Group's motion, as amended by the Administration's amendment, which was taken by roll call:

For (14): Councillors Akhtar, Currie, Dugdale, Forrest, Gilbert, Goodfellow, Hampshire, McGinn, McLennan, McLeod, McMillan, O'Donnell, Trotter, Williamson

Against (7): Councillors Bruce, Findlay, Henderson, Hoy, Kempson, Mackett, Mackie

The SNP Group's motion, as amended by the Administration's amendment, was therefore carried.

Decision

The Council agreed to approve the SNP Group's motion on the Public Sector Pay Freeze, as amended by the Administration's amendment.

10. SUBMISSIONS TO THE MEMBERS' LIBRARY SERVICE, 13 OCTOBER – 30 NOVEMBER 2020

A report was submitted by the Head of Council Resources advising Members of the reports submitted to the Members' Library since the last meeting of the Council.

Decision

The Council agreed to note the reports submitted to the Members' Library Services between 13 October and 30 November 2020, as listed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Sederunt: Councillors Findlay and Mackie left the meeting.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS – EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Council unanimously agreed to exclude the public from the following business containing exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 6 (information concerning the financial or business affairs of any particular person other than the Authority) of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal – Commercial Heads of Terms between East Lothian Council and Queen Margaret University for Delivery of the Food and Drink Innovation Hub and Park

A private report by the Head of Development regarding the development of commercial Heads of Terms between East Lothian Council and Queen Margaret University for the delivery of the Food and Drink Innovation Hub and Innovation Park at Queen Margaret University was approved.

Cockenzie Power Station Site - Update

A private report by the Chief Executive updating Members on continuing interest in the former Cockenzie Power Station site was approved.

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 23 February 2021

BY: Executive Director for Council Resources

SUBJECT: Budget Development including Setting of Rent Levels
2021-2026

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Following on directly from my report to Cabinet on 19 January 2021, this report provides both an update of recent developments in respect of the Local Government Finance Settlement as well as presenting amended budget proposals for the Housing Revenue Account.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council is asked to note the implications for East Lothian Council arising from the Scottish Government Draft Budget announced on 28 January 2021.
- 2.2 Council is asked to consider and make recommendations in relation to the respective Housing budget proposal included within today's agenda reflecting an updated amendment to the Draft Administration Proposal for Housing approved by Cabinet on 19 January 2021.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At meetings of the Council held on 27 October 2020 and 15 December 2020, information was provided in relation to the future financial prospects for the Council, and the 5-year Financial Strategy incorporating the Capital Strategy was formally approved.
- 3.2 In line with the approved budget development framework, in January Cabinet considered and approved Administration draft budget proposals for General Services (Revenue and Capital) and Housing Revenue Account, reflecting the most up-to-date information available at that time.

3.3 Since then, we now have a published DRAFT Local Government Finance Settlement for 2021-22, announced as part of the Scottish Budget on 28 January 2021, and formal local authority allocations were received on 1 February 2021. Given current Scottish Government grant funding levels make up almost two-thirds of the Council's overall funding, any further variation in grant funding levels both for 2021-22 and beyond could have a significant impact on the level of resource available to the Council for delivery of essential local services.

3.4 Key components of the Finance Settlement and implications for the Council are set out below:

National Position

- The draft Scottish Government Budget and related Local Government Finance Settlement have been provided covering 2021-22 financial year only;
- Councils must continue to deliver a number of specific commitments including:
 - Maintain the national pupil teacher ratio level, ensuring places are provided for all Probationer Teachers who require one;
 - Social Care budgets made available to Integration Authorities (IJBs) must be greater than 2020-21 budgets by each Local Authorities share of the national sum of £72.6m made available via the Health Settlement. This new funding has been provided to support the continued delivery of real Living Wage, uprating of Free Personal and Nursing Care Payments and continued implementation of the Carers Act;
 - An additional £90m national funding has been reflected within the settlement dependent upon delivery of a Council Tax freeze for 2021-22;
 - Additional ring-fenced funding has been confirmed in the settlement in line with previously announced funding in 2018 to support the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare entitlement.
- In addition to the above, the Scottish Government also set out their public sector pay policy that requires as a minimum that a pay award equivalent to 3% for employees earning up to £25k and 1% to those earning up to £80k, and a limit of £800 for those earning over £80k. Whilst any agreed pay increases to the local government workforce is subject to separate and formal pay negotiations, this does set the contextual framework for any negotiations.

East Lothian Position

General Service Revenue

- Core Revenue Support Grant has increased by £1.230 million in cash terms relative to 2020-21 budgets (0.7% increase).
- An additional £1.948m is included in the settlement to support a Council Tax freeze, which is equivalent to just less than 3% in terms of council tax yield.
- An additional £1.398m of new funding has been provided to support specific policy commitments within Social Care (as referenced above) and must be passed on in full to the Integration Joint Board.

General Services Capital

- An increase of £0.08m of capital grant, taking the total capital grant to £7.587m.
- An additional increase in specific capital grant to support Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets.

3.5 Reflecting all of the above within the Administration draft budget proposals approved by Cabinet in January, this now leaves the Council with an adjusted General Services Revenue budget gap in 2021-22 of just under £4.2 million rising to just under £4.5 million by the end of 2023-24. To help inform development of budget amendments, details setting out this updated position have already been shared with all Group Leaders.

3.6 The current settlement details remain in draft pending their passage through the Scottish Parliamentary process. Key dates for debate have now been confirmed and are set out below:

- Stage 1 debate – 25 February 2021
- Stage 2 debate – 8 March 2021
- Stage 3 debate – 9 March 2021

3.7 The next UK Budget for 2021-22 will be announced on 3 March 2021, and it is unclear whether this will change any treasury allocations already provided to Scottish Government. Given this, there are many variables which may change the level of resources available to East Lothian Council in 2021-22. A further update report will be provided to the Special Council meeting on 2 March and should anything change significantly before then an update will be provided to all Group Leaders.

Next Steps

3.8 As previously reported, given the unique circumstances surrounding the UK, Scottish and Local Government budgets, the Council budget timetable has been amended to reflect the changing circumstances, with

Housing Revenue Account Budget proposals being considered formally at this meeting, and the General Services budget and Council Tax setting expected to be considered on 2 March 2021. As previously reported, formal General Services budget amendments should be submitted to Finance by 19 February 2021.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 3.9 The formal HRA statutory tenant consultation on rent levels has now closed with a summary of the findings of the consultation set out in **Appendix 1**, and more details lodged in Members' Library (Ref: 20/21, February 2021 Bulletin).
- 3.10 In accordance with the Council's approved budget development framework, an amendment must be deemed competent, both in terms of deliverability and also in compliance with the requirements set out within the Financial Strategy, approved by Council in December 2020.
- 3.11 A single HRA budget amendment has been brought forward by the Administration for Council consideration, as set out at Item 3 on the agenda.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The amended budget proposals have been prepared in accordance with the new Financial and Capital Strategies approved by Council on 15 December 2020.
- 4.2 There are a number of policy implications associated with the approval of any of the amended budget proposals.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 Equalities – the budget proposals will have a significant impact on the future delivery of services by East Lothian Council and therefore a potential impact on the wellbeing of equality groups. All political groups have been provided with general information on the potential impact of all budget saving proposals.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – as described above and in the supporting appendices
- 6.2 Personnel - none
- 6.3 Other – none

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Council – 15 December 2020 – Item 4 Finance and Capital Strategy 2021-26
- 7.2 Cabinet – 19 January 2021 – Item 7 – Budget Development – Administration DRAFT Budget proposals
- 7.3 Members’ Library Report – February 2021 (Ref: 20/21) – Proposal to Increase Council House Rents – Consultation Exercise

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DESIGNATION	Head of Finance
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DATE	12 February 2021

Appendix 1 – Summary of HRA Rent Budget Consultation

1 Background

1.1 The Council has a statutory obligation under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 to consult with all tenants when making any proposals to increase rents. In doing so the Council must:

- Consult all tenants and registered tenant organisations affected by the proposal, and
- Have regard to the views expressed during the consultation exercise.

Consultation Approach

1.2 With the continued aim of improving on the approach to consulting on rent proposals adopted in previous years, the Council undertook to continue to work with and agree a robust approach in conjunction with East Lothian Tenants & Residents Panel (ELTRP).

1.3 The long-standing Project Group comprising of Council staff from Community Housing, Revenues and Finance, the Cabinet Spokesperson for Housing, as well as members of ELTRP, has developed the consultation on the 2020/21 proposed increase.

1.4 The Project Group:

- designed, agreed and implemented the consultation approach for the rent proposals, which gave tenants the opportunity to complete a consultation questionnaire to give their views on the rent consultation and proposed rent increase. It was agreed that tenants would also have the opportunity to complete their questionnaire online. They could comment in other ways too, i.e. via free phone, email or by writing in.
- designed a customer-friendly consultation letter, which included key information to tenants on what their rent pays for and also on a proposal to consider a potential rent increase of 2%, reduced from 5% to take account of the impact of COVID-19, and:
- agreed the timeline for the consultation.

1.5 All of the above measures continue to build upon similar successful exercises over the last few years.

Consultation Outcome

1.6 Feedback was received through the questionnaire and online.

1.7 A total of 1,560 completed questionnaires (including five responses from local Tenants and Residents Associations) were received. This represents

a return rate of 17.94% (compared to 10.5% last year), which is a comparatively high return rate for this type of consultation.

1.8 The results of all the feedback received from tenants who completed the consultation questionnaire are shown below.

- 89% of those who responded were happy with the level of consultation and information they get about the annual rent increase (91% in previous year)
- 81% said that they think the rent they pay is good value for money (88% in previous year)
- 65% said they think the Council are proposing a fair increase of 2% (78% in previous year)
- 87% agree with the Council's commitment to build new houses and to modernise existing housing stock (92% in previous year agreed with the commitment to build new houses, and 97% in previous year agreed that the Council should continue to modernise its existing stock)
- 47% said that their financial situation had been made worse by COVID-19.

1.9 ELTRP held an online rent consultation event in January 2021 to gather the views of their members. At that event, members were provided with information on the rent increase proposals and were invited to take part in an online poll. The general feedback from the event was as follows:

- 69% felt that a 2% rent increase was fair
- 81% felt that the rent is good value for money
- 94% agreed with the Council's commitment to modernisation and new build programmes
- 25% felt that their financial situation had been made worse by COVID-19

1.10 A full report of all the responses received from tenants who completed the questionnaire has been lodged in Members' Library for Members to access (Members' Library Ref: 20/21, February 2021 Bulletin).

Douglas Proudfoot - Head of Development

James Coutts – Service Manager Community Housing & Homelessness

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- 81% said that they think the rent they pay is good value for money (88% in previous year)
- 65% said they think the Council are proposing a fair increase of 2% (78% in previous year)
- 87% agree with the Council's commitment to build new houses and to modernise existing housing stock (92% in previous year agreed with the commitment to build new houses, and 97% in previous year agreed that the Council should continue to modernise its existing stock)
- 53% said that their financial situation had been made worse by COVID-19.

1.9 ELTRP held an online rent consultation event in January 2021 to gather the views of their members. At that event, members were provided with information on the rent increase proposals and were invited to take part in an online poll. The general feedback from the event was as follows:

- 69% felt that a 2% rent increase was fair
- 81% felt that the rent is good value for money
- 94% agreed with the Council's commitment to modernisation and new build programmes
- 25% felt that their financial situation had been made worse by COVID-19

1.10 A full report of all the responses received from tenants who completed the questionnaire has been lodged in Members' Library for Members to access (Members' Library Ref: 20/21, February 2021 Bulletin).

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East Lothian
Council

3

**RENT PROPOSALS 2021/22 – 2025/26
ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT**

ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT
HRA BUDGET PROPOSALS 2021/22 TO 2025/26

	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Budget	2025/26 Budget	
Rent Increase	5.00%	0.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	
BUDGET	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Income							
House Rents	(32,688)	(33,063)	(35,422)	(38,178)	(41,027)	(43,939)	
Garage Rents	(668)	(673)	(707)	(742)	(779)	(818)	
Services/Service Charges	(624)	(640)	(656)	(672)	(689)	(706)	
Other Income	(171)	(214)	(215)	(217)	(181)	(186)	
Interest	(50)	(51)	(51)	(53)	(53)	(54)	
Total Income	(34,201)	(34,641)	(37,051)	(39,861)	(42,728)	(45,702)	
Expenditure							
Employee Costs	2,692	2,732	2,760	2,816	2,872	2,930	
Repair Costs	10,552	10,974	11,413	11,870	12,345	12,715	
Void Rents (incl Garage void)	792	828	866	906	948	991	
Bad Debt Provision	585	614	645	677	711	747	
Operating Payments	1,247	1,342	1,481	1,434	1,419	1,443	
Transfer Payments	500	513	525	538	552	566	
Internal Recharges	3,719	4,308	4,399	4,517	4,613	4,736	
Debt Charges	10,877	11,091	11,885	13,042	13,710	14,756	
Total Expenditure	30,964	32,401	33,975	35,799	37,170	38,883	
Management of Balances							
Opening (Surplus) / Deficit	(1,968)	(1,705)	(1,444)	(1,521)	(1,882)	(1,941)	
Capital from current revenue	3,500	2,500	3,000	3,700	5,500	7,000	
(Surplus)/ Deficit for Year	(3,237)	(2,239)	(3,076)	(4,061)	(5,559)	(6,819)	
Closing (Surplus) / Deficit	(1,705)	(1,444)	(1,521)	(1,882)	(1,941)	(1,760)	
Capital Expenditure							5 Year Total
Modernisation/Extensions	15,652	15,888	14,382	13,420	12,557	12,157	68,404
New Affordable Housing	16,094	12,031	29,268	22,330	22,573	21,765	107,967
Fees	1,514	1,477	1,410	1,438	1,467	1,496	7,288
Mortgage to Rent	280	280	280	280	280	280	1,400
Total	33,540	29,676	45,340	37,468	36,877	35,698	185,059
Debt to Income Ratios	31.8%	32.0%	32.1%	32.7%	32.1%	32.3%	

ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT - HRA BUDGET PROPOSALS 2021/22 TO 2025/26

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
HRA Income						
House Rents						
Rent income adjustments relating to rent increases and new council house additions <i>Changes as result of rent increases and new council housing additions</i>	(2,292)	(375)	(2,359)	(2,755)	(2,849)	(2,912)
Garage Rents						
Rent income adjustments relating to rent increases <i>Changes as result of rent inceases</i>	(32)	(5)	(34)	(35)	(37)	(39)
Service Charges						
Income adjustments relating to service charge adjustments <i>Changes as result of recharge adjustments</i>	18	(16)	(16)	(16)	(17)	(17)
Other Income						
Homeless Rents, Renewable Energy Income, Refugee Support-Home Office Funding	(1)	(43)	(2)	(2)	36	(5)
Interest						
Interest on accumulated balances <i>Internal interest received</i>	5	(1)	-	(1)	-	(1)
TOTAL	(2,407)	(440)	(2,410)	(2,810)	(2,868)	(2,974)
HRA Expenditure						
Staffing						
General Inflation Increase <i>Increase in line with assessed inflation rate</i>	76	62	92	119	122	125
Increase in LGPS Contribution Rates <i>Increase in contribution rates from 21.4% to 21.9% from April 2020, 22.4% from April 2021 and 22.9% from April 2022</i>	8	13	-	-	-	0
Orchard System Project Team <i>Orchard System Review project team, incl pay award,superann</i>	-	(36)	(63)	(64)	(65)	-67
	84	39	29	55	57	58
Repairs						
General Inflation Increase <i>Increase in line with assessed inflation rate</i>	1,376	423	439	457	475	370
	1,376	423	439	457	475	370
Void Rents						
Rent adjustments relating rent increases and new council house additions <i>Changes as result of rent increases and new council housing additions</i>	43	36	38	40	42	43
	43	36	38	40	42	43
Bad Debts						
Rent adjustments relating rent increases and new council house additions <i>Changes as result of rent increases and new council housing additions</i>	-	29	31	32	34	36
	-	29	31	32	34	36
Operating Expenses						
General Inflation Increase <i>Increase in line with assessed inflation rate</i>	-	95	139	(47)	(15)	24
	-	95	139	(47)	(15)	24
Transfer payments						
General Inflation Increase <i>Increase in line with assessed inflation rate</i>	-	13	13	13	13	14
	-	108	152	(34)	(1)	38
Internal Recharges						
General Inflation Increase <i>Increase in line with assessed inflation rate</i>	99	588	91	118	96	123
	99	588	91	118	96	123
Debt Charges						
Debt Charges <i>In year changes in debt repayments</i>	661	214	794	1,157	668	1,046
	661	214	794	1,157	668	1,046
TOTAL	(144)	1,093	(698)	(1,032)	(1,512)	(1,236)

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council
MEETING DATE: 23 February 2021
BY: Executive Director for Council Resources
SUBJECT: 2020/21 Quarter 3 Financial Review

4

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an update on the in-year financial position at the end of December 2020.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The report recommends that Council:

- Notes the in-year financial performance for the Council;
- Notes that officers will continue to progress a range of mitigation measures in an attempt to manage the financial position during the remainder of 2020/21.
- Approves that a proportionate allocation reflective to the share of national funding received from the loss of income scheme is transferred to group account partners in this financial year in order to support their ongoing financial sustainability.
- In accordance with Section 3.17, approves that decisions on any further financial support to these group partner bodies in this financial year, be delegated to the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Leader/Depute Leader and Cabinet spokesperson.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council received an update on the in-year financial performance and underlying challenges at its meeting in October 2020. This report provides an update on the 2020/21 financial position, the potential risks and

financial challenges going forward and sets out how the Council intends to manage these challenges through the year-end closedown.

- 3.2 Since the previous report, the Council continues to operate within an extremely challenging financial environment including the impact arising from COVID-19 with a second national lockdown currently in force. Whilst the full impact of these restrictions are reflected in the financial ledger figures presented, the report narrative highlights the potential risks of these challenges and the potential impact on the financial projections for the remainder of this financial year.

General Services Revenue Summary – Quarter 3

- 3.3 The General Service Revenue financial position at the end of December 2020 is an overspend of £163,000 (0.7%). As highlighted previously, officers remain focused on the pursuit of a wide range of mitigation options with the anticipation that collectively these will bring the Council back into financial balance for this year subject to successful management of the risks identified in this report.

- 3.4 An analysis setting out the financial position across service groups, including a financial risk rating is set out in **Appendix 1**, with further detail setting out the key challenges and any risks included within the narrative below. There continues to be a higher than normal number of service areas that are categorised as High or Medium Risk, highlighting that services are struggling more than ever to deliver existing service levels within available resources.

- 3.5 The **Resources and People Directorate, (covering Education and Children’s Services Group alongside Council Resources)** is reporting a Period 9 underspend of £0.798 million (0.8%), an improvement of £1.278 million on the £481,000 overspend reported position in October 2020. This has largely been caused by increased staffing underspends and delays in the full implementation of the 1140 hours rollout due to restrictions imposed by the ongoing COVID-19 situation which in turn have created helpful flexibility in the use of earmarked funding. Education & Children’s Services is reporting a collective underspend of £0.276 million (0.3%) and the underspend in Council Resources is £0.521 million (6.4%). A summary of the key variables and risks are set out below:

- Children’s Services, £1.741 million over (14.6%) - the most significant pressure remains in External Residential Care, high tariff secure placements and external fostering. As highlighted within the October 2020 financial review, the service is likely to overspend in excess of approved budgets by around £2 million. This includes additional COVID-19 related expenditure in excess of £0.500 million largely relating to: loss of income, additional cover for staff absence, and additional external fostering placements due to pressures within local fostering capacity. Despite this, there is evidence that targeted interventions is having an impact in controlling additional demand for external placements with more packages of support that keep young people within East Lothian put in place at significantly lower cost. This

position remains volatile, and there remains a risk that demand for external services could increase before the year-end, which would affect the financial position. This position will remain under close review.

- Management remain focused on a range of options designed to minimise future spend commitments whilst ensuring that services provided to children are undertaken in a way that best supports and protects children. This includes the establishment of the vulnerable Children's Services Project, reviewing all services to children across the Council to ensure a whole-Council approach to reducing vulnerability and will include enhanced family support measures.
- Education, £2.018 million under (2.4%) – Pressures remain in ASL, primary and secondary school budgets, largely relating to external placement and transport costs, and significant additional COVID-19 related costs to support the safe reopening of schools, including PPE, cleaning and transport. As previously reported, flexibility in excess of £3 million has been applied in respect of Early Learning and Childcare funding in line with national guidance. Any additional costs associated with the planned reopening of schools following the current lockdown could have an impact on the financial position.
- Council Resources, £0.521 million under (6.4%) – There remains significant additional costs to support the IT capability of increased numbers of staff working from home; however, there will be an underspend in this service due to staffing vacancies across wider support services pending the full implementation of a number of significant service reviews.

3.6 The **Health & Social Care Directorate** includes the Adult Wellbeing service. The position recorded at 31 December 2020 is an overspend against budget of £0.358 million (0.9%). This is due to the level of demand for commissioned services such as care homes and care at home. As highlighted in the October 2020 report, the service is experiencing significant COVID-19 related costs, currently in excess of £3 million, and the potential this could increase further in light of the ongoing lockdown. This includes: loss of anticipated income, the purchase of spare care home beds, and on-going sustainability payments to external providers in line with national guidance. Distinct from other Council services, the position assumes that the additional government funding pledged to support health and social care will cover these costs. Members are reminded that the majority of this budget is delegated to the IJB, and therefore any overspends must be managed in accordance with the scheme of integration and wider overall IJB resources.

3.7 The **Partnership & Community Services Directorate** has an overspend of £0.151 million (0.4%). The main areas of pressure are within Infrastructure service areas.

- Development, £0.484 million under (8.0%) – Scottish Government guidance has allowed for the fixed costs relating to the Property Maintenance Trading Account to be recovered which has significantly improved the financial position from the previously reported overspend. There remains a risk that planning fee income will be under anticipated budget levels. Work is progressing to both monitor and minimise any impact should this risk materialise.
- Infrastructure, £1.176 million over (6.4%) – The main pressure areas are in Roads, Transportation and Waste, albeit most other infrastructure service areas are also facing significant COVID-19 related pressures. This includes: a significant reduction in planned income levels across a wide range of services as well as significant under-recovery of rechargeable works relating to Roads trading activity. Roads (Trading) and Waste remain categorised as high risk, and are unlikely to deliver within approved budget levels for this year. There continues to remain a risk relating to adverse winter weather, which may affect the final position at the end of March.
- Communities & Partnerships, £0.541m under (5.6%) – most service areas continue to support COVID-19 related activities. Despite this, it is anticipated that this underspend will continue for the remainder of the year, the majority of which relates to staffing underspends.

3.8 In addition to the service position and pressures set out above, the Council has incurred additional corporate costs in order to comply with national COVID-19 related guidance whilst in lockdown and/or imposed restrictions. This includes the additional payment of casual and supply teaching staff until the end of June amounting to £0.646 million alongside the on-going supply of PPE to support wider non-schools services, the cost of which is currently £0.374 million.

3.9 The Corporate Management budgets include most of the key resource streams and corporate commitments for the Council, the most notable of which include Scottish Government grant funding, Council Tax income. More detail relating to Scottish Government grant funding received during the year to support COVID-19 pressures and priorities are set out in paragraph 3.12 of this report. In addition, Council Tax budgets are currently showing an improving outturn relative to the reported October position, largely due to a combination of higher than previously forecast house completions offset by a lower number of Council Tax exemptions. In-year council tax collection levels are still marginally lower than anticipated, and enhanced efforts continue to be made in support of individuals who are facing economic hardship and it is hoped that ultimately managing this flexibly will help ensure that all Council Tax due is eventually collected.

3.10 **Appendix 2** sets out the detail of progress in delivering the planned efficiencies for 2020/21. In summary, management remain hopeful that the vast majority of the planned £3.2 million savings for 2020/21 will be deliverable in-year, with £129,000 of income-generated savings now

unlikely. Members are reminded that whilst £2 million corporate staffing savings will be delivered in-year due to vacant posts, not all will be recurring, meaning it will need to be managed on a year-by-year basis.

- 3.11 At the time of approving the budget, the Council faced significant financial challenges that required careful management in order to work within approved budget levels. Despite increased costs relating to COVID-19 currently sitting at over £16 million expenditure, officers remain hopeful the combined range of mitigation options including Scottish Government support and flexibilities currently being managed will allow expenditure commitments to be delivered within available budgetary limits.

Scottish Government Funding

- 3.12 Previous financial update reports provided to both Council and prior to that through the Emergency Recess arrangements have provided an update on additional funding that we have received from the Scottish Government. Funding received to date to support COVID-19 have all been received on a non-recurring basis, with specific details set out in further detail in **Appendix 3**. A significant proportion of COVID-19 related funding has been directed through local authorities, but as previously reported, much of this has been ring-fenced to deliver new specific policy commitments or been used to support the payment of business grants. Across all Council services, COVID-19 has unquestionably created significant financial pressures, with additional funding falling significantly short of the projected £16 million pressure for this year.
- 3.13 Alongside this, the Council has applied flexibility in the use of use funding previously made available funds to support the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare to 1140 hours in line with national guidance.
- 3.14 Previous Council reports have highlighted that the Cabinet Secretary announced in early October a package of fiscal flexibilities for Scottish councils to support the mitigation of COVID-19 pressures. At the time of writing this report, the exact details of these flexibilities remain subject to discussion between COSLA and Scottish Government, and updated relevant statutory guidance has yet to be received. Although we remain committed to pursuit of full and proper national funding of all expenses incurred in our response to the national public health crisis, these additional flexibilities are likely to provide a potentially vital alternative means of absorbing the unfunded burden of COVID-19 response and supporting future recovery activity.

Council's Group Components

- 3.15 From the outset of COVID-19, the Council has engaged constructively with its group account partners to consider the financial implications of each of the organisations during this pandemic. Despite positive and constructive discussions, no additional financial support has yet been provided to any partners during this year, but we have worked flexibly to support effective management of cash flows. In addition, and as previously notified in closing the 2019/20 accounts, a 'letter of guarantee' has been provided to

both Enjoy and Brunton Theatre Trust. This 'guarantee', whilst not prescriptive in respect of quantum, does provide both organisations with positive assurance that the Council will continue to work proactively with them to manage cash flow and fulfil their inescapable obligations should the need arise.

- 3.16 The financial implications arising from loss of income for both Enjoy and Brunton Theatre have been included within the national COSLA return used to support and inform both the quantum and distribution relating to national loss of income scheme. As previously reported to Council, the indicative allocation provided to East Lothian falls significantly short of actual income shortfall, and despite an indication that additional national funding will be provided, the revised total funding is less than half of that estimated through the national cost collection exercise.
- 3.17 Recognising the continued financial challenges being faced by our group partners, it is recommended that a proportionate allocation reflective of the share of the national funding received from the loss of income scheme is passed on to our ALEO partners in order to help maintain their ongoing financial viability. It is unlikely the overall quantum will be confirmed until the end of March and as such, there may be a more immediate need to consider earlier financial intervention to these partners in order to help ensure effective recovery and future service delivery. It is therefore recommended that any decision to provide further financial support to these partner bodies this financial year be delegated to the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Leader/Depute Leader and Cabinet spokesperson, ensuring that targeted support can be met without any significant adverse impact upon the Council's overall financial position.

General Services Conclusion

- 3.18 The Council has continued to operate in recent years within a very challenging financial environment, and this has unquestionably increased through managing COVID-19. Whilst it now looks likely that, through successful application of the collective range of mitigation options, the Council will be in a position to achieve financial balance in 2020/21 albeit that much of this is through a range of one off interventions including additional non-recurring funding. As part of the Scottish Government's recent draft budget, it now looks likely that some COVID-19 funding will be provided to support 2021/22, albeit it remains significantly lower than the national quantum provided in 2020/21. With current in-year COVID-19 pressures amounting to over £16 million, and with many of these recurring, unless significant additional funding is forthcoming this will undoubtedly impact on future spending plans.

General Services Capital Summary – Quarter 3

- 3.19 Despite an increase in spend from the previously reported position of £7.1 million, capital spend at the end of December 2020 remains lower than budgeted at just under £19 million (19%) against an updated budget of £98.1 million. More detail is set out in **Appendix 4**.

- 3.20 Current forecasts estimate spend for 2020/21 to be £42.5 million. Several expenditure and income budgets have had to be re-profiled in future years due to the continuing impact of COVID-19, and these have been reflected in the draft Administration budget proposals approved by Cabinet in January 2021 and may be further adjusted within final budget proposals to be considered by Council.
- 3.21 As has been reported previously, COVID-19 restrictions remain in place and updated working practices have had an impact on in-year capital plan delivery. Enhanced health and safety to comply with COVID-19 national guidance has directly affected the time that it takes to carry out works and projects are taking longer to complete. This is also a cost risk to future tender submissions which might require further adjustment to estimated project costs.
- 3.22 The Council is operating within a very uncertain financial and economic environment. Cost implications from Brexit and wider economic factors from the UK's departure from the European Union will need to be closely monitored and considered so that the Council can balance competing pressures in a sustainable way.
- 3.23 A summary of the key changes and main risks are shown below:
- Roads continue to be directly affected by the COVID-19 restrictions in place with less programmed work being undertaken than had been planned.
 - The delivery of the majority capital works associated with the Education estate, including the early years provision, have been delayed and re-profiled into future years.
 - Despite some delays due to both COVID-19 and ground conditions, the new Wallyford Learning Campus is at an advanced design stage with some works starting over the summer and with a target opening date for pupils of August 2023.
 - Vehicles that have been ordered and expected are now subject to delivery delays and may not be received in the current financial year.
 - IT budgets will be overspent in-year with additional IT devices required to ensure sufficient provision to support the current home-working requirements.

Housing Revenue Account Summary – Quarter 3

- 3.24 At the end of December 2020 the Housing Revenue Account is reporting a significant underspend against current budget of £1.2 million. The most significantly affected area being our planned programme of repairs and maintenance that continues to be restricted due to COVID-19. Similar to circumstances reported within the General Fund, it is likely that there will be an underspend on budgeted debt charges, largely due to lower interest rates for lower levels of new borrowing incurred this year.

- 3.25 There are additional pressures upon void properties due to the COVID-19 restrictions, and there are lower than anticipated rent collection levels, with debt recovery work ongoing albeit with measures in place to support tenants experiencing economic hardship.
- 3.26 In accordance with the approved financial strategy whereby the Council should maximise any flexibility arising from revenue balances to minimise the future impact of debt charges, any additional surplus arising during 2020-21 will be applied in this manner.
- 3.27 Details of the Housing Revenue Account capital budgets and expenditure incurred to date is set out in **Appendix 5** of this report. The total capital budget approved for HRA was £33.540 million. As at end of December 2020, the actual spend was £14.664 million, almost entirely due to delays in planned work arising from COVID-19. Full year spend is expected to be just under £21 million.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct policy implications associated with this report, although, ongoing monitoring and reporting of the Council's financial performance is a key part of the approved Financial Strategy.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been considered and given there is no change in policy direction, there is no requirement to undertake any further impact assessment.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – as described above and in the supporting appendices
- 6.2 Personnel - none
- 6.3 Other – none

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Council – 17 December 2019 – Item 4 Finance Strategy 2020-25
- 7.2 Council – 25 February 2020 – Item 4 – Budget Development including setting of rent levels 2020-25
- 7.3 Council – 3 March 2020 – Item 2 – General Service Budget Proposal - Administration

- 7.4 Members Library Service 31 May 2020 – 61/20 COVID 19 Financial Management Update
- 7.5 Members Library Service 31 July 2020 – 78/20 COVID 19 Financial Update
- 7.6 Council 25 August 2020 – Item 5 – 2020/21 Financial Review Quarter 1
- 7.7 Council 27 October 2020 – Item 5 – Financial Update

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Appendix 1
 East Lothian Council
 Budget Monitoring 2020/21 General Fund - Period 9

Service	Head of Service	Business Unit	2020/21 Budget	Year to Date			2020/21 Budget Variance to Date	2020/21 Budget Variance to Date	Financial Risk Assessment
				2020/21 Actual to Date	2020/21 Budget to Date	2020/21 Budget to Date			
				£'000	£'000	£'000			
Resources & People	Education	Childrens	15,947	13,644	11,903	1,741	14.6%		
Resources & People	Education	Additional Support for Learning	9,286	8,081	7,247	834	11.5%		
Resources & People	Education	Pre-school Education & Childcare	16,503	9,988	13,521	-3,533	-26.1%		
Resources & People	Education	Schools - Primary	43,711	30,389	30,207	182	0.6%		
Resources & People	Education	Schools - Secondary	45,204	31,765	30,792	973	3.2%		
Resources & People	Education	Schools - Support Services	3,715	2,138	2,612	-474	-18.1%		
RESOURCES & PEOPLE	EDUCATION TOTAL		134,366	96,005	96,282	-277			
Resources & People	Council Resources	Financial Services	1,468	254	381	-127	-33.3%		
Resources & People	Council Resources	Revenues & Benefits	2,093	1,405	1,659	-254	-15.3%		
Resources & People	Council Resources	IT Services	2,304	1,486	1,496	-10	-0.7%		
Resources & People	Council Resources	Legal	326	313	364	-51	-14.0%		
Resources & People	Council Resources	Procurement	250	242	246	-4	-1.6%		
Resources & People	Council Resources	People & Governance	4,910	3,880	3,955	-75	-1.9%		
RESOURCES & PEOPLE	COUNCIL RESOURCES TOTAL		11,351	7,580	8,101	-521			
RESOURCES & PEOPLE TOTAL			145,717	103,585	104,383	-798	-0.8%		
Health & Social Care Partnership	Adult Wellbeing	Adult SW	35,146	24,584	23,243	1,341	5.8%		
Health & Social Care Partnership	Adult Wellbeing	Acute & Ongoing Care	7,500	5,658	5,645	13	0.2%		
Health & Social Care Partnership	Adult Wellbeing	Rehabilitation	1,494	1,018	1,141	-123	-10.8%		
Health & Social Care Partnership	Adult Wellbeing	Adult Statutory Services	2,511	2,439	2,229	210	9.4%		
Health & Social Care Partnership	Adult Wellbeing	Statutory Services	1,185	652	745	-93	-12.5%		
Health & Social Care Partnership	Adult Wellbeing	Head of Operations	3,050	2,310	3,059	-749	-24.5%		
Health & Social Care Partnership	Adult Wellbeing	Business & Performance IJB	2,871	2,194	2,427	-233	-9.6%		
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP	IJB TOTAL		53,757	38,855	38,489	366	1.0%		
Health & Social Care Partnership	Adult Wellbeing	Business & Performance Non-IJB	790	699	707	-8	-1.1%		
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP	Non-IJB TOTAL		790	699	707	-8	-1.1%		
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP TOTAL			54,547	39,554	39,196	358	0.9%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Development	Planning	1,043	928	884	44	5.0%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Development	Economic Development	868	1,031	1,185	-154	-13.0%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Development	Housing & Strategic Regeneration	687	528	660	-132	-20.0%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Development	Property Maintenance Trading Account	-863	2,553	2,311	242	10.5%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Development	Community Housing	2,439	528	1,012	-484	-47.8%		
PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITIES SERVICES	DEVELOPMENT TOTAL		4,174	5,568	6,052	-484	-8.0%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Infrastructure	Facility Support Services	3,623	2,777	3,056	-279	-9.1%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Infrastructure	Facility Trading Activity	-276	-1,731	-1,626	-105	6.5%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Infrastructure	Asset Maintenance & Engineering Services	3,242	2,720	2,736	-16	-0.6%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Infrastructure	Asset Management & Capital Planning	-576	444	509	-65	-12.8%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Infrastructure	Landscape & Countryside Management	5,271	3,628	3,819	-191	-5.0%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Infrastructure	Roads Network	4,730	3,465	3,423	42	1.2%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Infrastructure	Roads Trading Activity	-688	158	-716	874	-122.1%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Infrastructure	Transportation	1,089	573	79	494	625.3%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Infrastructure	Waste Services	8,099	5,217	4,578	639	14.0%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Infrastructure	Active Business Unit	3,591	2,395	2,612	-217	-8.3%		
PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITIES SERVICES	INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL		28,105	19,646	18,470	1,176	6.4%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Communities & Partnerships	Corporate Policy & Improvement	1,200	751	896	-145	-16.2%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Communities & Partnerships	Connected Communities	6,185	3,744	3,908	-164	-4.2%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Communities & Partnerships	Protective Services	1,796	1,191	1,264	-73	-5.8%		
Partnerships & Community Services	Communities & Partnerships	Customer Services Group	3,617	3,355	3,514	-159	-4.5%		
PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITIES SERVICES	COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TOTAL		12,798	9,041	9,582	-541	-5.6%		
PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY SERVICES TOTAL			45,077	34,255	34,104	151	0.4%		
COVID 19 PPE Costs			0	374	0	374	0.0%		
COVID 19 Job Retention Costs			0	646	0	646	0.0%		
OTHER COSTS TO BE ALLOCATED TO SERVICES			0	1,020	0	1,020	0.0%		
SERVICE TOTAL			245,341	178,414	177,683	731	0.4%		
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TOTAL			-245,341	-202,226	-201,658	-568	-0.3%		
TOTAL			0	-23,812	-23,975	163	0.7%		
TOTAL HRA			0	-16,072	-12,523	-3,549	-28.3%		

Appendix 2
East Lothian Council
2020/21 Budget Efficiencies - Period 9

Service	2020/21			
	Achieved	Amber	High	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Education	47	0	0	
Council Resources	9	0	10	
H&SCP	0	0	0	
Communities	774	0	0	
Development	53	0	50	
Infrastructure	201	0	69	
Corporate	0	2,000	0	
Total	1,084	2,000	129	3,213
	33.74%	62.25%	4.01%	

Savings Currently High - Red

Service	Proposal	Value	Comments
IT	Expected revenue from sale of hardware due to refresh	10	Not anticipated to be achievable at this stage due to COVID 19
Property Maintenance Trading	Efficient workforce management to be met from service redesign, strict management of vacancies, agency costs and increased productivity.	30	Unlikely to be achievable due to loss of Property Maintenance trading income
Property Maintenance Trading	New opportunities for income maximisation	20	Unlikely to be achievable due to loss of Property Maintenance trading income
Facilities Trading	School Meal charges	16	Lower than planned School Meal income due to COVID-19
Facilities Trading	Grab and Go expansion	8	Lower than planned School Meal income due to COVID-19
Landscape &	Amenity Service - income generation target	20	Not anticipated to be achievable at this stage due to COVID 19
Roads Network	3% uplift on existing income	5	Not anticipated to be achievable at this stage due to COVID 19
Roads Trading	Explore new opportunities for income management	20	Not anticipated to be achievable at this stage due to COVID 19
Total		129	

Savings Currently Medium - Amber

Service	Proposal	Value	Comments
All	Efficient workforce management to be met from service redesign, strict management of vacancies, agency costs and	2,000	May not be able to be fully realisable in year due to additional pressure on staffing budgets.
Total		2,000	

Appendix 3
 East Lothian Council
 Additional Scottish Government Funding for COVID

Funding	ELC Share £m	Scotland Total £m	Comments
GENERAL REVENUE GRANT			
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED			
Associated with COVID 19	2.992	155.000	Being used to help fund overall council spending in 2020/21.
LA Hardship Fund	0.965	50.000	Additional Programmes and initiatives to support the community during the Pandemic.
Scottish Welfare Fund Top Up	0.334	22.000	Fully allocated to SWF budget. £23m to be allocated.
Food Fund	0.447	30.000	Providing food support to vulnerable families and individuals incl. free school meals.
Registrars of Death	0.012	0.600	
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	0.380	25.000	Further £25m to be distributed.
Additional UK Consequentials	0.946	49.000	Non ring-fenced funding
Education Recovery Funding	0.403	20.000	Applied to schools with a further £30m not yet allocated.
FUNDING ANNOUNCED SINCE LAST UPDATE			
Community Justice CPP Transitional funding Extra	0.012	0.600	Ring Fenced Funding
Environmental Health Officers	0.019	1.200	
Test & Protect Combined	0.048	2.872	
Winter Plan - RRTP	0.105	5.000	
Children & Young People's Mental Health	0.294	15.000	
Business Support Grant Admin	0.180	12.000	
Additional Education - Teachers	0.482	25.000	
Additional Education - Digital Inclusion	0.196	10.000	
Additional Education - Home Learning Support Fund	0.181	10.000	
Additional Education - Staffing	0.482	25.000	
Additional education - Teachers	0.508	26.667	
Winter hardship £100 Payments & Admin	0.169	16.000	£100 payment to eligible families in receipt of FSM.
January Free School Meal Provision	0.092	7.058	Allocated for FSM through direct payments.
TOTAL REDETERMINATIONS	9.247	507.997	
COVID GRANTS			
Business Grants	17.624	1,200.000	Cost neutral, however does incur additional administration work.
Extension of Business Support	TBC	120.000	Details not yet confirmed.
Newly Self-Employed Help Fund	0.228	34.000	Cost neutral, however does incur additional administration work.
Business Closure Fund	0.390		Cost neutral, however does incur additional administration work.
Discretionary Business Hardship Fund	0.090		Cost neutral, however does incur additional administration work.
Softplay	0.055		Cost neutral, however does incur additional administration work.
Furlough Support Fund	0.219		Cost neutral, however does incur additional administration work.
Self Isolation Support Grant	0.020		£500 self isolation payments
Strategic Framework Business Fund	6.730		
LA Discretionary Fund	0.428		
Taxi & Private Hire Driver & Support Fund	TBC	57.000	£52,500 of grants currently paid out.
TOTAL COVID GRANTS	25.784	1,411.000	
OTHER FUNDING			
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED			
Food Fund (2nd Tranche)	0.428	27.600	£178,000 for school meals, £250,000 for Shielding.
DHP (£5m nothing to date)			Details still to be confirmed.
Extension of Business Support £120m			
Additional Teaching	0.572	30.000	Funding to support additional teachers and support staff, additional £16.7m announced for 2021/22 with ELC set to receive £64,000 for Teachers and £32,000 for Non-Teachers
Additional Teaching Support	0.064	3.300	
Additional Teachers to Support COVID resilience	0.380	20.000	Additional £10m announced for 2021/22 with ELC set to receive £190,000.
Digital Inclusion (Revenue)	0.070	0.515	Revenue element of £30m package to support the purchase of additional digital devices for children.
FUNDING ANNOUNCED SINCE LAST UPDATE			

Children's Winter Money	0.362	23.500	Funding to support additional costs of supporting vulnerable young people.
Lost Income Scheme	0.750	90.000	Additional £110m to be allocated.
Spaces for People	1.400	30.000	Specific funding for Roads Services
October to December Free School Meals	0.094	10.000	Allocated for FSM through direct payments.
Financial Inclusion Fund	0.327	30.000	Support for individuals to access food and other essentials.
Discretionary Housing Payments Additional Funding	0.056	3.000	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDING	1.877	73.000	
CAPITAL			
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED			
Capital Town Centre Fund	0.462	18.000	Ring-fenced capital funding
Digital Inclusion (Capital)	0.401	29.485	Capital element of £30m package to support the purchase of additional digital devices for children.
FUNDING ANNOUNCED SINCE LAST UPDATE			
Capital School Transport	0.028	1.500	
TOTAL COVID GRANTS	0.891	48.985	
TOTAL FUNDING	37.799	2,040.982	

Appendix 4
East Lothian Council
Budget Monitoring 2020/21 General Services Capital - Period 9

	Annual (In-Year)		
	Approved Budget 2020/21	Updated Budget 2020/21	Actual 2020/21
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Community Projects			
Assets in the Community - Investment	250	250	-
Community Intervention	600	600	77
Dunbar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)	430	430	-
Support for Business - Gateside West	2,021	2,021	24
CCTV	62	62	-
Town Centre Regeneration	-	1,146	24
Total Community Projects	3,363	4,509	125
ICT			
IT Programme	2,100	2,100	1,881
Replacement - CRM Project (Customer Services)	-	70	(2)
Total ICT	2,100	2,170	1,879
Fleet			
Amenties - Machinery & Equipment - replacement	237	237	236
Vehicles	1,990	2,621	1,297
Total Fleet	2,227	2,857	1,533
Open Space			
Cemeteries (Burial Grounds)	300	300	53
Coastal / Flood Protection schemes - East Beach, Dunbar	-	81	82
Coastal / Flood Protection schemes - Haddington	280	280	0
Coastal / Flood Protection schemes - Musselburgh	800	800	684
Coastal Car Park Toilets	443	443	155
Core Path Plan	50	50	-
Mains Farm Sports Pitch & Pavilion	540	572	335
Polson Park	138	138	-
Sports and Recreation LDP	279	279	-
Waste - New Bins	160	160	125
Waste - Machinery & Equipment - replacement	40	40	30
Total Open Space	3,030	3,143	1,464
Roads, Lighting and related assets			
Cycling Walking Safer Streets	174	466	-
Parking Improvements	250	250	30
Roads	7,500	7,500	3,031
Roads - externally funded projects	2,410	2,410	747
Total Roads, Lighting and related assets	10,334	10,626	3,808
Property - Education			
Aberlady Primary - extension	946	946	48
Blindwells Primary - new school	135	135	-
Cockenzie Primary - hosting Blindwells Primary	30	30	-
Craighall Primary - New School (Phase 1)	107	107	-
Dunbar Grammar - extension	-	-	164
Dunbar Primary - John Muir Campus - Early Learning and 1140	-	-	2
East Linton Primary - extension including Early Learning and 1140	10	10	-
Gullane Primary - extension including Early Learning and 1140	5,506	5,276	1,674
Law Primary - extension including Early Learning and 1140	2,048	2,041	10
Letham Primary - New School	4,796	4,353	3,527
Former Levenhall Nursery	-	-	1
Loretto Primary - 1140	-	-	2

Appendix 4
 East Lothian Council
 Budget Monitoring 2020/21 General Services Capital - Period 9

	Annual (In-Year)		
	Approved Budget 2020/21	Updated Budget 2020/21	Actual 2020/21
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Musselburgh Grammar - upgrades	808	812	7
North Berwick High School - Extension	6,020	6,020	8
Ormiston Primary - extension	1,097	1,097	51
Pinkie St Peter's Primary - extension including Early Learning and 1140	2,218	2,218	127
School Estate - Curriculum Upgrades	330	330	5
Ross High School - extension	9,819	9,819	69
St Gabriel's Primary - extension including Early Learning and 1140	960	960	47
Wallyford Primary - New School	-	-	166
Wallyford Secondary - New School	14,116	14,116	1,066
West Barns Primary - extension including Early Learning and 1140	1,505	1,505	95
Whitecraig Primary - extension including Early Learning and 1140	2,231	2,231	-
Windygoul Primary - Early learning and 1140 extension	2,095	2,095	-
Total Property - Education	54,777	54,101	7,070
Property - Other			
Accelerating Growth	7,768	7,768	289
Brunton Hall - Improved Community Access	278	278	-
Court Accommodation - incl. SPOC	2,008	2,008	9
Haddington Corn Exchange - upgrades	476	511	706
Haddington Town House - Refurbishment and Rewire	147	147	0
Lighting Retrofit at Longniddry Community Centre/Library	12	12	-
Lighting Retrofit at Port Seton Community Centre	26	26	-
Meadowmill - New Depot	1,148	1,290	316
Meadowmill Sports Centre Car Park Resurfacing	260	260	-
New ways of working Programme	750	750	-
Port Seton - Community Centre Extension	607	603	554
Prestongrange Museum	1,268	1,368	1
Property Renewals	2,000	2,000	913
Replacement Of Movable Pool Floors To Sports Centres	580	580	326
Replacement Pathways Centre	1,504	1,504	-
Sports Centres	200	200	-
Water meter size reduction	14	14	-
Whitecraig Community Centre	-	99	1
Total Property - Other	19,046	19,419	3,115
Total Property - Education and Other	73,824	73,520	10,185
Capital Plan Fees	1,322	1,322	-
Total Gross Expenditure	96,199	98,148	18,994
Total Income	(46,894)	(48,433)	-
Borrowing Requirement	49,305	49,715	18,994

Appendix 5
East Lothian Council
Budget Monitoring 2020/21 Housing Capital - Period 9

Capital Expenditure	2020/21 Budget	2020/21 Actual to Date	2020/21 Budget Variance to Date
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Modernisation Spend	15,652	4,935	(10,717)
New Council Housing	16,094	9,729	(6,365)
Mortgage to Rent	280	0	(280)
Fees	1,514	0	(1,514)
Gross Total Housing Capital Spend	33,540	14,664	(18,876)

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council
MEETING DATE: 23 February 2021
BY: Chief Executive
SUBJECT: 2021-2022 Council Improvement Plan

5

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To review the 2018-20 Council Improvement Plan and present the 2021-2022 Council Improvement Plan report for approval by the Council.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council approves the 2021-2022 Council Improvement Plan, as detailed in Appendix 1.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The 2018-2020 Council Improvement Plan was approved by Council in December 2018. The Plan took account of, and reflected, the recommendations for improvement made in Audit Scotland's Best Value Assurance Report (October 2018). The seven actions in the Plan were based on the recommendations and actions identified by the Best Value Assurance Report. The Plan was subsequently updated by the Audit & Governance Committee in June 2019 with a further seven actions arising from the 2019 Corporate Governance Self-evaluation.
- 3.2 The Audit & Governance Committee considered a monitoring report in February 2020 and noted that four of the actions in the 2018-20 Council Improvement Plan have been fully completed.
- *Review all performance indicators and adopt a small set of key indicators that measure progress in achieving the Council Plan outcomes and strategic goals and work with the East Lothian Partnership to agree outcome measures and report on progress in reducing inequalities and growing the economy – A [Continuous Improvement Framework \(i2e\)](#) with*

Top 10 and Top 50 Council Plan indicators was agreed by Cabinet (12 March 2019). The [first annual report of these indicators](#) was presented to the October 2019 Policy & Performance Review Committee and formed the basis of the Council's Annual Performance Report. The East Lothian Partnership Governance Group has adopted a set of 34 Key Performance Indicators for the East Lothian Plan.

- *Review the format of the Council's Annual Report/ Annual Public Performance Report and how performance is reported to elected members* – Revised formats for the Council Annual Report and Annual Public Performance Report, including the Top 50 Council Plan indicators formed the basis of the 2019 Annual Performance and 'State of the Council' report that was presented to Council (28 October 2019).
- *Revise and then implement the Council's Continuous Improvement Framework to take on board improvements identified through the Recognised for Excellence Assessment* – A revised [Continuous Improvement Framework \(i2e\)](#) was approved by Cabinet (12 March 2019).
- *Revise and then implement the Council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy ensuring community and third sector organisations have opportunities to inform council policies, strategic plans and service improvement* – The Consultation and Engagement Strategy has been revised and a new [Guide to Community Participation Opportunities](#) is available on the Council website

- 3.3 The February 2020 monitoring report also noted that significant progress had been made on the other actions although the deadline for completion of several actions had been extended.
- 3.4 However, since March 2020 the Council has been in Business Continuity mode in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has necessitated focus on business critical activity and reduction in non-critical activity. This has meant that progress in completing actions in the Improvement Plan have been delayed. These actions are now carried forward into the new 2021-2022 Council Improvement Plan, as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 3.5 The Council carried out a Corporate Governance Self-evaluation exercise in spring 2020, the results of which were reported to the Audit & Governance Committee in June 2020. The self-evaluation found that the Council complies well with the principles of the corporate governance framework and identified many strengths and areas of good practice. However, it identified areas for improvement. Also, the self-evaluation identified areas of corporate governance and policy that need to be reviewed to take account of the short-term and emerging long-term impact of the pandemic.
- 3.6 As the Council is committed to continuous improvement and as a 'learning organisation', it will continue to review its policies and processes to support its continuous improvement.

3.7 The following improvement actions identified by the 2020 Corporate Governance Self-evaluation have been incorporated into the 2021-2022 Council Improvement Plan:

- Refresher training on the Code of Conduct will be provided to Elected Members
- The Council will undertake a review of the arrangements for dealing Council business arrangements when the Council's Business Continuity Plan has been invoked
- The self-evaluation of the East Lothian Partnership that was due to take place in Spring 2020 will now take place after the end of the COVID-19 emergency
- The Council will develop a Community Charter in partnership with civic society and the communities and citizens of East Lothian
- The Council will monitor the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan
- The Council will review, and take action to, minimise any negative impact of the COVID-19 emergency on the council's revenue and capital budgets
- The Council will review the Workforce Plan to take account of and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 emergency
- The Council's Leadership and Management Development Programme will be revised to take account of the impact of the COVID-19 emergency and to support Recovery and Renewal
- The Council will review how the Improvement to Excellence framework and new Council Plan performance reporting is operating.

3.8 The 2019/20 Annual Audit Report prepared for the Members of the Council and the Controller of Audit (October 2020) by the Council's auditors identified two areas where improvement is required and agreed management actions:

- The Council's reporting and monitoring against its improvement plan could be further improved to update members on what has been achieved through its improvement actions – officers will review how the Council Improvement Plan is monitored and reported to members
- It is important the Council ensures its performance reports are improved so that it is easier for Elected Members and the public to evaluate performance across equalities – officers will review the reporting of performance against equalities.

3.9 The outstanding actions from the 2018-20 Improvement Plan, actions identified from the 2020 Corporate Governance Self-evaluation and the two actions arising from the 2019/20 Annual Audit report have been incorporated into 2021-2022 Council Improvement Plan, as detailed in Appendix 1.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The 2021-2022 Council Improvement Plan will assist the Council in demonstrating that it is achieving Best Value. It will provide the necessary focus to improve key areas of the Council at a corporate level, thus aiding delivery of the Council Plan. Moreover, it will support East Lothian Council in its striving for continuous improvement, to continue improving the quality and delivery of its services and to meet Council Plan objectives.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – none.
- 6.2 Personnel – none directly, although certain actions within the Plan are likely to require the commitment of staff resources.
- 6.3 Other – none.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Appendix 1: 2021-2022 Council Improvement Plan
- 7.2 2018-2020 Council Improvement Plan Monitoring Report; Audit & Governance Committee, 18 February 2020
- 7.3 Corporate Governance Self-evaluation and Annual Governance Statement 2020; report to Audit & Governance Committee, 16 June 2020
- 7.4 2019/20 Annual Audit Report; East Lothian Council, 27 October 2020

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DATE	8 th February 2021

Council Improvement Plan 2021 – 2022

	ACTION	LEAD OFFICER(S)	DEADLINE	Source
1	<p>Implement the Council Workforce Plan 2018-2022. The implementation plan has 48 actions within 7 workstreams.</p> <p>Update: Over half of the actions in the plan have been completed and progress has been made on the remaining actions. The Plan will be revised to take account of the impact of the COVID-19 emergency.</p>	Service Manager Improvement and Policy	<p>Ongoing to March 2022</p> <p>The Plan will be revised by October 2021</p>	2018-20 Improvement Plan and 2020 Corporate Governance Self-evaluation
2	<p>Continue to embed transformational change across the Council and ensure it delivers expected improvement and benefits within planned timeframes, prioritising projects that are most likely to lead to major change and significant benefits.</p> <p>Update: Transformation principles are being embedded across all services. Key Transformation projects (including the Online HR/Payroll system and Online Customer Portal) are being completed and capacity has been created to support the delivery of major change with significant benefits.</p>	Chief Executive	Ongoing	2018-20 Improvement Plan
3	<p>Continue to focus on improving education performance for all children and young people in East Lothian.</p> <p>Update: The Council has adopted the Education Service Improvement Plan and all schools continue to focus on improving attainment and on School Improvement Plans.</p>	Head of Education	Ongoing	2018-20 Improvement Plan

4	<p>In order to ensure the Council continues to have relevant governance policies, guidance, regulations and internal controls that are reviewed and kept up-to-date, a register of such documentation will be prepared and reviewed annually.</p> <p>Update: This project was put on hold as this area of work is not deemed critical within Business Continuity Plans. It will recommence after recovery from the COVID-19 emergency.</p>	Service Manager Improvement and Policy / Service Manager People and Governance	November 2021	2018-20 Improvement Plan
5	<p>Establish formal mechanism for evaluating partnership working and the effectiveness of partnerships based on an agreed partnership self-evaluation framework.</p> <p>Update: The East Lothian Partnership was to undertake a self-evaluation exercise drawing on frameworks developed by Audit Scotland, the Improvement Service and EFQM in Spring 2020. This project was put on hold as this area of work is not deemed critical within Business Continuity Plans. It will recommence after recovery from the COVID-19 emergency.</p>	Service Manager Improvement and Policy	October 2021	2018-20 Improvement Plan and 2020 Corporate Governance Self-evaluation
6	<p>The Council will explore the development of a Community Charter in partnership with civic society and the communities and citizens of East Lothian.</p> <p>Update: Work commenced on developing the Community Charter but was delayed in order to reflect the development of the Climate Change Charter following the adoption of the Climate Change Strategy. Further work is required on the Charter to reflect the extensive community engagement of our local resilient community groups in responding to the COVID-19 emergency.</p>	Chief Executive	November 2021	2018-20 Improvement Plan and 2020 Corporate Governance Self-evaluation

7	<p>The Council will ensure it meets any additional requirements to further develop community participation in decision-making arising from the Local Governance Review.</p> <p>Update: This was put on hold as this area of work is not deemed critical within Business Continuity Plans and will recommence after recovery from the COVID-19 emergency.</p>	Chief Executive	December 2021	2018-20 Improvement Plan
8	<p>Continue to review reporting and monitoring of expenditure against budgets and recovery plans in order to deliver outcomes within agreed budgets.</p> <p>Update: The Council will review how the Improvement to Excellence framework and new Council Plan performance reporting is operating in Autumn 2020.</p>	Head of Finance	Ongoing to March 2022	2018-20 Improvement Plan
9	<p>The roll-out and adoption of the Staff Charter will be monitored and the Charter will be reviewed.</p> <p>Update: The Staff Charter will be reviewed as part of the recovery from the COVID-19 emergency.</p>	Service Manager Improvement and Policy	Ongoing to March 2022	2018-20 Improvement Plan
10	<p>The Council should review how the Improvement to Excellence framework and new Council Plan performance reporting is operating.</p>	Service Manager Corporate Policy & Improvement	October 2021	2018-20 Improvement Plan and 2020 Corporate Governance Self-evaluation
11	<p>It is important the Council ensures its performance reports are improved to that it is easier for elected members and the public to evaluate performance across equalities – officers will review the reporting of performance against equalities</p>	Service Manager Corporate Policy & Improvement	April 2021	2019/20 Annual Audit Report

12	It is important the Council ensures its performance reports are improved so that it is easier for Elected Members and the public to evaluate performance across equalities – officers will review the reporting of performance against equalities.	Service Manager Corporate Policy & Improvement	April 2021	2019/20 Annual Audit Report
13	Refresher training on the Code of Conduct will be provided to Elected Members in 2020/21.	Service Manager People and Governance	December 2021	2020 Corporate Governance Self-evaluation
14	Undertake a review of the arrangements for dealing with Council business arrangements when the Council's Business Continuity Plan has been invoked.	Head of Corporate Resources	December 2021	2020 Corporate Governance Self-evaluation
15	Monitor the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan.	Head of Development	Ongoing to march 2022	2020 Corporate Governance Self-evaluation
16	Review and take action to minimise any negative impact of the COVID19 emergency on the Council's revenue and capital budgets.	Head of Finance	Ongoing to March 2022	2020 Corporate Governance Self-evaluation

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 23 February 2021

BY: Executive Director for Education and Children's Services

SUBJECT: East Lothian Children's Strategic Partnership: Children and Young People's Services Plan 2020-2023

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present East Lothian Children's Strategic Partnership: Children and Young People's Services Plan 2020-23.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To endorse the Children and Young People's Services Plan as the community plan for children in East Lothian.
- 2.2 To agree the three priority areas that are targeted for improvement through strategic and operational partnership working.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 sets out the requirement for a local authority and relevant health board to prepare a children's services plan for each three year period.
- 3.2 A children's (and young people's) services plan is to be prepared with a view to ensuring that children's services (and related services) are provided in the way which
- best safeguards, supports and promotes the wellbeing of children in the area concerned,
 - ensures that any action to meet needs is taken at the earliest appropriate time and that, where appropriate, action is taken to prevent needs arising,
 - is most integrated from the point of view of recipients, and

- constitutes the best use of available resources.
- 3.3 Work on the new plan began in early 2020, in advance of the conclusion of the Children and Young People's Service Plan 2017-20. The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic and the requirement to focus on critical business impacted on the capacity for service planning and development across all partner agencies. In recognition of the challenge, the Scottish Government agreed that draft or interim plans be submitted by 30 September 2020, and full plans by 31 March 2021. As the Children's Strategic Partnership reports to the East Lothian Partnership, the draft plan was considered by the Governance Group on 8 January 2021 ahead of the full Council meeting today.
 - 3.4 The national context for children's services planning is characterised by a number of significant strategic and legislative developments. The Independent Care Review reported its findings one year ago in the form of *The Promise*: which heralded the need to shift the primary purpose from protecting children *against harm* to protecting all safe, loving respectful *relationships* and supporting families effectively enough to prevent the need for care. Behind this is an ambitious 10-year plan to effect change both to culture and legislation. Our new plan has been developed within the context of the Scottish Government's commitment to fully incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
 - 3.5 The priorities agreed for the new plan are based on a review of what our data is telling us about need within our communities. They are also informed by feedback from children and young people and our Champion's Board about what is important to them. Lastly, we have considered the findings of the review of how well we support children with additional support needs and the work to review the drivers for the increase in demand for care placements in children's services.
 - 3.6 The need to develop a strategic partnership approach to delivering effective family and parenting support, improving young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing, and reducing inequalities for our children and young people within and between our communities were strong themes that emerged within 2019/20 and form the basis of the new plan.
 - 3.7 Our Vision Statement: *We will work together to ensure East Lothian's children, young people and families are confident and resilient, and fully included as valued contributors within their schools and communities* is underpinned by the Council values of Enabling, Leading and Caring and the principles of a refreshed commitment to Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and ensuring all we do is informed by the voices of children and young people.
 - 3.8 The plan was developed during the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst we are still unclear about the extent and reach of the long-term impacts on children, young people, their families and communities, the immediate effects on income, relationships, family stress, prospects for attainment and mental health are stark. The commitment and emphasis

on helping to prevent and reduce adversity by working in partnership across services is therefore essential.

- 3.9 Good progress has already been made within mental health and family support priority work streams. Strong integrated and partnership approaches to establishing new services and new approaches and re-aligning existing supports are enabling more children and young people to access early and effective support. We will build on the learning this provides to inform decisions about planning and commissioning services across the county.
- 3.10 The Council and Health and Social Care Partnership has made a commitment to ensuring we have a “trauma informed” workforce that is well placed to understand and respond to the needs of our citizens and people who use our services. This work, in partnership with NHS Lothian, will be coordinated through the mental health work stream of the Children’s Strategic Partnership.
- 3.11 The Children’s Strategic Partnership is committed to delivering the aspirations and priorities of the Children and Young People’s Services Plan 2020-23 to improve the lives and life chances of children, young people and their families in East Lothian.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None at present. The findings from the supporting work streams may inform future policy decisions.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and no negative impacts have been identified.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – None
- 6.2 Personnel – None
- 6.3 Other – None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

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EAST LoTHIAN CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
SERVICES PLAN** 2020-23



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Introduction

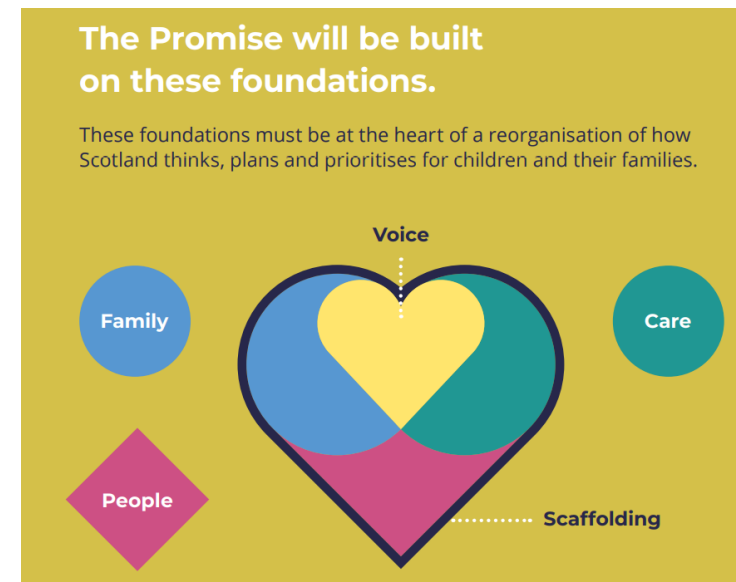
This plan is being completed at a time of wholly unprecedented global challenges as a result of **COVID-19**. In East Lothian, as in the rest of Scotland, the UK and indeed, the world, creativity and innovation have been to the fore as we had to work against the clock to redesign services so they could be provided safely for our children, their families and our staff.

National Context

Our services continue to evolve as the contexts shifts. There is no doubt that COVID-19 has been a challenge, but it has given us unexpected opportunities too. It may be that there will never be a return to pre COVID-19 normality – in some ways that will not be a bad thing for children’s services. We have learned so much in such a short time, having had to completely re-think our services alongside coping with reduced staffing levels and our own concerns about ourselves and our families and friends.

Our staff rose to the challenge incredibly, but it has been hugely stressful. There is much currently not known about how children, young people, families and communities have reacted to, and coped with, their experiences of lockdown. The effect on household incomes is unquantified, we do not know how much debt people have taken on, although we do know that applications for Universal Credit have soared. We also recognise that the longer-term effects on all of us of not being with people who are important to us may be significant and enduring.

We know that we will need to do better for East Lothian’s children and young people, to protect against the potential long-term harm of COVID-19, in addition to the enduring issues which bring children, young people and families into contact with services.



“Where things work well we need to ensure that this continues and recognise the good practice; where families’ needs are not being met, we need to find new solutions locally that that will build on and enhance the delivery of existing universal provision and ensure that we are really getting it right for every child within their family.” (COVID 19 Children and Families Leadership Group)

A reinvigorated approach to **Getting It Right For Every Child** will be the underpinning philosophy of our children's services. The child and their family will be at the centre, with our services adapted to them rather than the other way round. Service boundaries will be blurred, and budgets re-allocated to support a continuation of the innovation and creativity which was driven by the need to react to COVID-19.

In October 2016, the First Minister made a commitment that Scotland would *"come together and love its most vulnerable children to give them the childhood they deserve."*

The Promise was the report that came out of it – all based on relationships: **shifting the primary purpose from protecting against harm to protecting all safe, loving respectful relationships.** Behind it is an ambitious 10 year plan to effect change both to the culture and to the legislation.

The East Lothian Corporate Parenting Board oversees the planning and implementation of the East Lothian Corporate Parenting plan. The 2017-2020 Corporate Parenting Plan was developed in partnership with a wide range of organisations including East Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, Who Cares? Scotland and Queen Margaret University and the East Lothian Champions Board. The Corporate Parenting Plan makes promises and commitments to all care experienced children and young people. The board has evaluated progress on implementing improvement actions within the 2017-20 plan and is working together to develop the next three year plan. The new plan will reflect our corporate parenting duties to promote the interests of children who are care experienced. It will also seek to provide opportunities for care experienced children and young people to participate in activities which are designed to promote the wellbeing of young people. East Lothian corporate parents will also take any action they consider appropriate to help young people access these opportunities or make use of services. The Corporate Parenting

Board will work closely with the East Lothian Champions Board and will ensure the findings and the vision from 'The Promise' is fully incorporated into the new plan.

Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People (SCCYP) has published a Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) on the response to COVID-19 in Scotland (July 2020). The Commissioner notes that "Most strikingly, despite the need to ensure that the best interests of children are a primary consideration in all actions concerning them (article 3 (1) [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child] and the UNCRC's recognition that participation in decision making (article 12) is an enabling right, children have been largely absent from the decisions that have so profoundly impacted their lives. One of the greatest failings during the pandemic response has been the lack of recognition of children as rights holders rather than as passive objects of care or charity. The structures within which we make decisions need to be fundamentally rethought in order to enable children to take an active role in their own lives and communities."

We know that we can make change happen quickly when needed. We have been in survival mode for the past few months. Now we need to move on and drive further change, to make East Lothian a great place to be a child, young person or a family and a great place to work in children's services.

Another significant development since we started to draft this Plan is the commitment by the Scottish Government, to bring forward a Bill during this Parliament to "fully and directly incorporate the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** into Scots law, to the maximum extent of the Scottish Parliament's powers. Public authorities, including the Scottish Ministers, will be under a statutory duty not to act incompatibly with the UNCRC requirements as set out in the Bill.

Our local response

East Lothian's Children's Services Plan for 2020 – 2023 (the Plan) has been developed by the East Lothian Children's Strategic Partnership (the Partnership). It is based on evidence about what is happening in our communities. By children's services, we mean all services the Council provides for children including Children's Social Work, Education, Community Learning & Development and others. Services provided by partners, including NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, Edinburgh College and the third sector, also fall within this definition, along with relevant adult services that are delivered through East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership.

The Plan describes how we will safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of our children, young people and their families by helping to prevent and reduce adversity, and working in partnership take action to meet their needs at the earliest appropriate time.

In the plan, we explain what we will be doing over the next three years to move us towards our **shared vision**:

We will work together to ensure East Lothian's children, young people and families are confident and resilient, and fully included as valued contributors within their schools and communities.

The Plan is developed within the context of the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and the findings of the Independent Care Review (ICR). We will work with all partners to increase our capacity to deliver preventative interventions to focus services towards prevention, aiming to re-invest savings from fewer costly crisis interventions.

The Christie Commission emphasised the need for preventative spend to focus on preventing poverty and inequality. Our existing work on delivering the Fairer Scotland Duty and the implementation of the East Lothian Poverty Commission's recommendations will be explicitly linked to this CSP at strategic level, and progress built in to reporting on its delivery.

Children's rights and wellbeing are core to the Plan. Alongside this we will support and develop our workforce to be confident and resilient, able to fulfil their duties effectively. We will create and maintain a local environment which facilitates effective *Getting It Right For Every Child* practice for individual children and young people.

The development of this plan has benefitted from consultation and engagement with children, young people and families and we will continue to ensure that they are able to provide their views to help inform all future developments. We will publish an accessible one-page plan for everyone in East Lothian with an interest in our plan to be able to see what it means for them.

Our priorities

We have a lot of advantages in East Lothian, in many ways it is a great place to live, work, go to school and bring up a family. We have a growing population and are forecast to increase further, bringing potential economic benefits but also increasing pressure on services. However, within this, there are wide disparities between and within our communities. Relative poverty is growing

in all of our communities. Child poverty in Scotland is forecasted to rise. We know that growing up and living in poverty is linked with poorer educational outcomes and poorer health.

The mental health of our children and young people was a concern pre COVID-19, and this will only have increased. Families are struggling to cope and a lack of resilience is resulting in an increased need for placements, in a growing number of cases out with the county. Reporting of domestic abuse is increasing year on year, and it is now a major part of the workload of our local police. While we will not eradicate all of these disparities over the period of this plan, we can make progress towards achieving our vision for East Lothian's children, young people and families.

Whilst the full impact of the pandemic has yet to become clear, our understanding of the impact of COVID to date has assured us these are the right areas of focus for collective leadership and delivery of services for children, young people and families in east Lothian.

The **three key priority outcomes** this plan will focus on have emerged out of our work together over the last two years and from what our young people have told us matters most to them.

- 1. We will improve children and young people's mental health and wellbeing**
- 2. We will support parents, carers and families to be more resilient**
- 3. We will reduce inequalities for our children and young people within and between our communities**

1. Our vision, values and underpinning principles

Our Children's Services will follow the spiral model, with most resources going into those closest to the child, in the expectation that this will, through time, reduce the need for specialist help and compulsory intervention and make the best use of resources.

*We will work together to ensure East Lothian's children, young people and families are **confident** and **resilient**, and fully **included** as valued contributors within their schools and communities.*

Our values

ENABLING and encouraging everyone we work with to be able to achieve their full potential

LEADING by example and taking responsibility to improve ourselves and our services

CARING for each other, our community and the work that we do



2. Hearing the voices of our children & young people

Most of the consultation we have carried out with children and young people was pre-COVID. Consultation with children, young people and communities is mainstreamed in the work of children's services in East Lothian. Children and young people involved with youth justice services are reviewed regularly in relation to how they view our input.

The education service has undertaken several statutory and non-statutory consultations over the past few years, all of which have involved engagement with children and young people as well as families and communities.

We also carry out an annual **Student Evaluation of Experience (SEE)** survey - all P6, S2 and S4 pupils in East Lothian schools are invited to take part each year between January and March to gather their views in relation to a range of matters including teaching and learning, community issues, child protection and physical/sports activities grouped under the SHANARRI headings.

Some interim findings from the 2019/20 survey are:

For **young carers** we said we would decrease the percentage of pupils who regularly help to take care of someone in their family who is physically or mentally ill or has problems with drugs or alcohol. The proportion of P6 & S2 pupils agreeing in 2019/20 shows a drop of 5% on the previous year while the proportion of S4 pupils dropped slightly from 21% to 20%.

Access to home internet: this measure was changed in 2019/20 to say 'I can access any learning I need at home through the internet' as this is a more relevant indicator for the Education service that the service can actually impact – response from P6 & S2 pupils was 87% whilst the response from S4 pupils was 93.6%.

Including disabled children and young people: we said we would increase the percentage of pupils who can access regular public transport where they live. The proportion of P6 & S2 pupils agreeing in 2019/20 shows an increase of 1% on the previous year and an overall improved trend over the last 5 years. The S4 pupils shows an increase of 2% on the previous year and an overall improved trend over the last 3 years.

Other consultation opportunities include the **East Lothian Champions Board**, which was set up in 2015 and is supported by East Lothian Council and Who Cares? Scotland. It provides a platform for care experienced young people to talk directly to local authority staff, elected members and service providers to ensure that decisions which affect their lives are informed by their own experiences. Through the Board, care experienced young people themselves can influence improvements in the services and support available to them. The Board's priorities are **health, education and housing**.

We also use **Viewpoint** (a tool for consulting with care experienced young people about their care experience). Most recently, this has highlighted that:

Some children / young people:

- Experience some bullying at their placement or at school
- Report problems sleeping/ health worries/were worried about their anger

East Lothian Youth Summit: ‘Ideas for Change, Ideas for Action’

In spring 2018, East Lothian Council held its first youth summit, which was planned to be a bi-annual event. This was a one-day conference which involved two pupil representatives from every East Lothian school (P7-S6) plus larger groups of senior pupils (S4-6).

Children and young people who attended our Youth Summit told us that they had concerns around **wellbeing and feelings, healthy friendships and relationships** and **children’s rights**.

We have a **Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)** programme – linked to the UNCRC - and all of our schools are encouraged to participate in this programme. The benefits of this go beyond the school and into the community as a whole.

East Lothian has strong experience of using innovative methods to explore children’s views and understanding of their rights. As part of the *Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design 2016* and the Festival of Architecture, **StreetsAhead Tranent** explored children’s views and experiences of their local community and built environment; examining how these factors impact on children’s rights and wellbeing.

StreetsAhead Tranent was invited to the UNCRC Day of General Discussion in Geneva and East Lothian Council and the Fa’side Area Partnership contributed funds to allow the children to travel to Geneva to share their work directly with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and other children and adults from around the world.

A further example of our work to incorporate UNCRC was the Human Rights Defenders project, piloted in Ross High School in Tranent.

Between March 2018 and June 2019, East Lothian participated in an innovative project working with experienced Members of Children’s Parliament to design and deliver Children as Human Rights Defenders; the programme explored children’s views on what rights they feel need to be defended in Scotland and what support is required from adults to ensure children can be both empowered and protected in their role as human rights defenders.

Over 200 children across Scotland were introduced to their rights as outlined in the UNCRC. These workshops were designed and co-delivered by Members of Children’s Parliament supported by an adult staff team.

3. Consulting on the plan

Building on feedback from children, young people and families through our third sector colleagues and services, the findings from our Youth Summit and Champion’s Board, the Partnership ran a public consultation on the proposed priorities. Working within the restrictions of COVID, with the support of the third sector, we designed a successful online consultation and received 421 responses to these questions from young people, families, community members and people working within services.

We need to focus on improving children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing in East Lothian so that our children and young people are able to cope with what’s going on in their lives. 97.5% of respondents agreed with this priority.

Common themes included:

1. There was a shared view with many that the waiting lists for services in particular CAMHS are far too long. Access to services needs to be easier and quicker.
2. Access to community groups for both adults and children would help greatly “accessibility and inclusion for all in community based activities”. Places for teenagers to access, safe spaces to express their feelings rather than being disruptive. Affordability was also mentioned a lot, access to sessions for families on low incomes out of school.
3. Early Intervention was a large theme running through the respondents. This could look very different, early support for families from birth along with responsive support in schools when children are showing signs of need rather than waiting until they are in crisis.
4. Interventions which are wanted, collaboration of agencies to ensure support across the communities.
5. The availability of trusted relationships was suggested many times – giving time to build them, to allow parents to work with the professional for the good of their children.’ When the hard work is starting, the time is up or the funding runs out!’. Providing support for children at school, or in community groups where they can build a relationship.
6. Removing the stigma not just of mental health but asking for support – poverty, housing etc.
7. Robust training for those working with families around mental health. “We can’t all be mental (health) nurses but a knowledge to recognise the signs is needed. Space to talk about feelings is a must in school and at home.
8. COVID-19 was been mentioned as a worry that people mental health will be further affected and what support can be put in place to support the whole family at this time.

We need to focus on increasing support to parents and families in East Lothian so that families can get the right kind of help when they need it. 92.8% of respondents agreed with this priority

Common themes included:

1. Many respondents talked about drop-in sessions for parents, families or children. Places they feel safe to chat and share experiences and learn from each other. Not many available past toddler age. 'provide drop-in sessions for parents to access information on health, wellbeing and mental health for the family'
2. More awareness of services in the area – a central point of contact maybe – 'overarching co-ordinator for parenting' – 'one obvious place parents can go and get help'.
The linking up of services including those to support employability and adult learning – 'if parents are able to improve their own skills and confidence this will have a positive effect on their children's learning.'
3. Early Intervention is again mentioned here by many – 'council and agencies need to work together at an early stage to prevent escalation and potential statutory intervention' – 'early intervention, not waiting until a crisis hits'. Some mentioned more funding for workers including health visitors.
4. Development of affordable breakfast/afterschool clubs across the county to support parents' chances of accessing work or college and the more social aspect for the children.
5. There is an understanding of budget constraints and suggestions of 'money spent more wisely' along with ensuring the services offered are what the community want – 'too often parents are not aware of the resources available'

We need to reduce inequality for children and young people in East Lothian so that they have the same chances everyone has to get the most out of their lives? 91% of respondents agreed with this priority.

Common themes included:

1. The importance of East Lothian communities having a better understanding of equality and diversity including race/gender/disability/LGBTQ. It was felt that schools need to ensure the curriculum covers black history. "Black history needs to be taught and needs to be more readably available to young people."
2. The impact of Covid 19 has had a huge impact on families where access to WIFI and digital technology has left many children and young people more disadvantaged. "Covid 19 has shone a light on the inequality - in my home, while my children were able to complete online school as we had the technology to help them, those living near us are not so fortunate and these children are suffering for it." One respondent suggested that there should be after school hubs where families can access free WIFI. There was also expressed support for homework clubs.
3. Many respondents called for free access to leisure, sports and recreational activities to be available to all children and young people living in poverty. It was also highlighted that consideration should be giving to the working poor. "Working poor who are just making ends meet but are not eligible for any help or support are the ones who are overlooked and could really benefit from the support." Respondents also welcomed work being done to reduce the stigma attached to poverty. "More work needs to go into diminishing the stigma around low income and those families requiring support to get by daily."
4. Many respondents felt children and young people with additional support needs need be better supported within mainstream school

and mainstream leisure and sports activities. They felt there should be a better awareness and understanding of autism amongst all communities in East Lothian.


5. It was noted that the oral health for children from poorer backgrounds needs attention.
6. Respondents felt a focus on early intervention and prevention for children at the earliest possible stage is important in reducing inequality. "Support for parents can help to interrupt the inter-generational cycle and working within the communities and hearing what they need is essential. Changing the conversation and ensuring we can be responsive to requests for assistance is key."

Our consultation on this plan provided us with a wealth of rich comments and suggestions which we will draw on as we develop our implementation plans and look to consider our work beyond 2023.

4. Our context

Our communities are made up of six geographic clusters:

- **DUNBAR**
- **HADDINGTON**
- **MUSSELBURGH**
- **NORTH BERWICK**
- **PRESTONPANS**
- **TRANENT**



34 PRIMARY
6 SECONDARY
SCHOOLS

We have reviewed our data and highlighted some of the key challenges that are particular to East Lothian.

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 established a set of four national measures of child poverty with national medium (2023) and longer-term (2030) targets. East Lothian was one of only four Council areas where it was estimated that less than 10% of children live in families with limited resources:

However, our demographic and deprivation profile present us with some significant challenges. We have pockets of deprivation throughout the county, even in more affluent communities and is rising across the county. We are among only six councils in Scotland whose share of the 20% most deprived datazones has increased since 2016. Therefore we need to improve how effectively we move families out of poverty and improve the support and promote the wellbeing of people and this is a comparatively recent phenomenon.

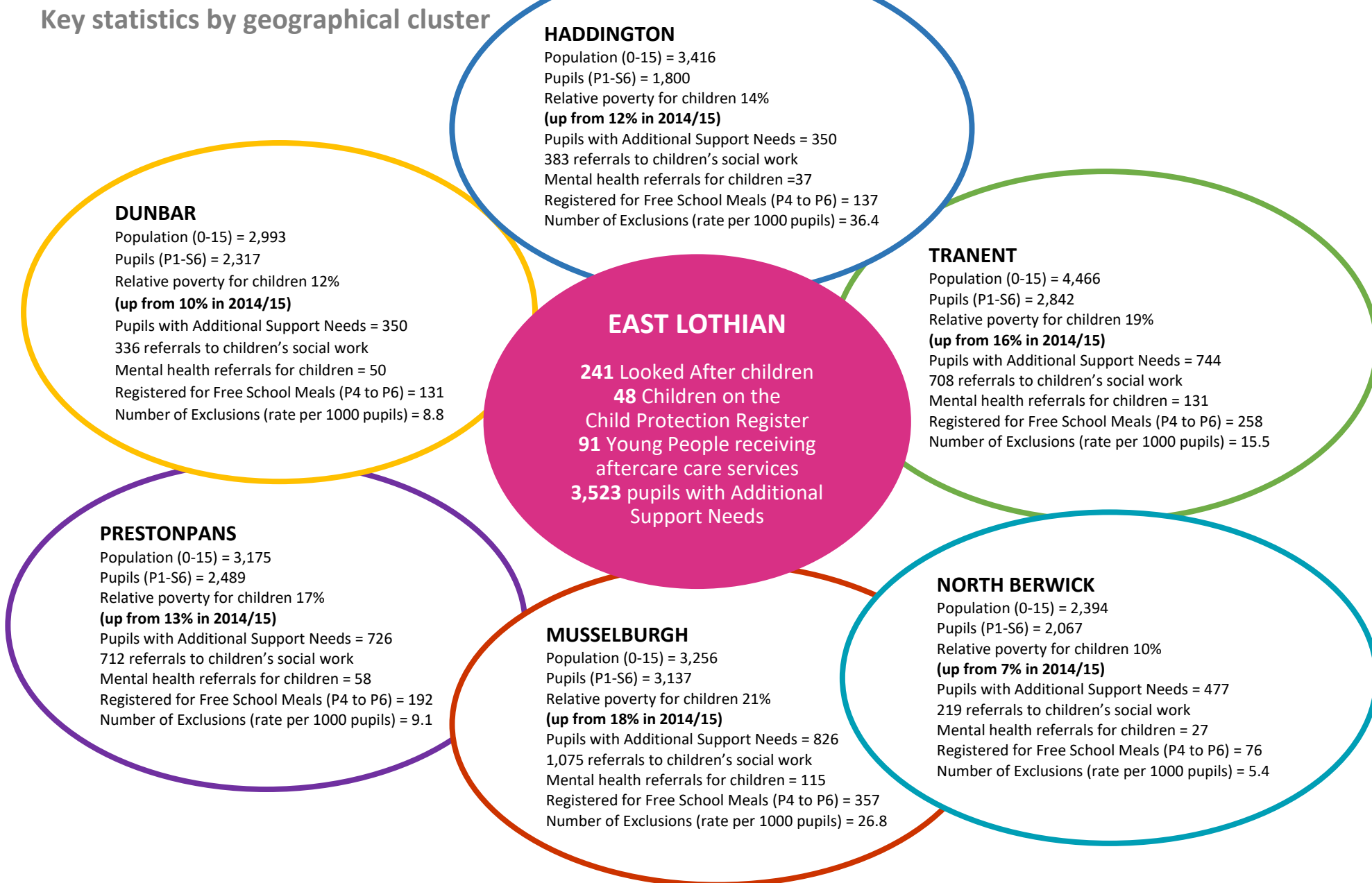
There is significant Partnership work ongoing to deliver/develop anti-poverty work such as our Local Child Poverty Action Reports and wider anti-poverty work in East Lothian. Collaboration and partnership working are essential for such work to be effective.

There will always be differences in outcomes for people living in East Lothian, but we can aim to increase opportunities and reduce inequality, not just of income but also the discrimination and disadvantage that people with the protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010 experience (race, disability, sex, religion or belief, age, gender reassignment, pregnancy & maternity, and sexual orientation).

Within East Lothian, deprivation ranges from almost 30% in some areas to 12% in others. 13 of our 132 datazones (7%) are among the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland, according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.

Therefore, we have 1 in 5 children of children living in poverty after the cost of their housing is taken into account. This affects not only their health and well-being but also limiting their opportunity to be the best that they can be. The stigma of poverty remains strong across the county and can leave families feeling ashamed of their circumstances and slow to ask for help and support.

Key statistics by geographical cluster



Domestic abuse

Linked to gender inequality, we know that we have rapidly rising reporting of domestic abuse in East Lothian, which has devastating impacts on children and young people across every aspect of their lives. 40% of children on the Child Protection Register in East Lothian had domestic abuse as a registration category last year. On average, there were 105 domestic incidents each month (Police Scotland data 2019/20) and an average of 40 per month were marked as criminal.

73% of the domestic abuse cases dealt with at our domestic abuse Multi Agency Risk Assessment conferences in 2019/20 involved children.

Other forms of violence against women and girls are also present in our area in significant numbers. Sexual crimes recorded by the police rose from 134 in 2017-18 to 203 in 2018/19 and 193 in 2019/20. Most of these were historic crimes.

Universal Credit

We know that the rollout of Universal Credit has had a catastrophic effect on families and is driving further income inequality. The single household payment model reinforces inequality between partners in a relationship, and increases the risk to women of domestic abuse and financial coercion by restricting access to resources. The COVID pandemic will accentuate this inequality further and increase the need for services.

Skills Development Scotland predict an increase in the number of jobs at lower pay levels increasing the possibility of in-work poverty in East Lothian.

Housing challenges

Private sector rented accommodation remains in short supply with rent levels above the average. Homeless presentations are higher

than in comparable authorities and families are staying much longer than average in temporary accommodation, experiencing all the disruption that brings to their lives.

We had 790 applications in 2019, marginally down on the previous year, but people are staying in temporary accommodation for longer than the Scottish average (we are the authority which has the 7th longest stay). We had 125 households with 195 children in temporary accommodation at end of March 2019. We are also below the Scottish average of unintentionally homeless people given settled accommodation and are among the lowest percentage to provide housing support (5%). In contrast, some local authorities are providing support to 100% of applicants.

Growing population – risks and opportunities

We are the second fastest growing local authority area in Scotland. Our population is projected to increase from 105,790 people in 2018 to 113,403 people by 2028, a rise of 7.2% compared with a Scottish average of 1.8%. We have 19,350 under 16 year olds, representing 18.3% of our population. The Scottish average is 16.9%.

The primary school roll in East Lothian is also increasing although the current year shows a slight drop of 1% in 2020/21 than in 2018/19. The current primary school roll is 8,553 pupils.

The number of secondary pupils has increased over that same period – 9% more in 2020/21 than in 2018/19. The current secondary roll is 6,336 pupils and now projected to increase further.

Significant growth is projected across all age groups but particularly among children with the 0-16 year group projected to grow by almost a third.

Clearly, this will place additional burdens on services, which are already having to cope with several years of challenging local

government settlements and constrained central government funding.

Population growth also offers opportunities but increasingly, we have extreme affluence and extreme poverty existing relatively closely together, if not quite side by side. Large scale house building projects are bringing people who can afford to buy them into the area in significant numbers, and their children are attending schools with those from very different backgrounds. Income inequality is brought into stark relief and with it, huge challenges for those families who cannot compete in what they can provide materially for their children compared to their classmates.

Additional Support Needs (ASN) growth

The proportion of pupils who have additional support needs has risen from 21.5% in 2014/15 to 24.0% in 2019/20. In total there were 3,523 pupils requiring ASN support as at September Pupil Census 2019. Some of the children who require ASN support are also being supported by children's social work services.

Policing in East Lothian

Although the 2019/20 figures show an overall 4.3% decrease in Anti-Social behaviour, the year beginning April 2020 has shown a dramatic increase (60%). Much of this can be attributed to COVID-19 related complaints but there has been a significant increase in large gathering of youths and associated disorder as well as a trend of young people inhaling Nitrous Oxide gas along with alcohol and drugs.

The increase of 14.8%, 2019/2020 of domestic abuse crimes is a particular concern as many of these crimes affect children and influence their behaviour and mental health.

Although there has been an overall decrease of instances of children going missing, looked after children going missing/absconding has increased by 20%. Individual cases have highlighted that some of these children have placed themselves in serious and risky situations with poor outcomes and this has placed additional strain on police and children's services.

Police crime statistics can be found by clicking the link below.

www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/

5. Our opportunities & challenges

Successes

- Academic attainment at secondary school at SCQF level 6 or above is similar to comparator authorities and to the Scottish average.
- Across East Lothian, as measured by the Early Development Instrument (EDI) for children in P1, children in general do relatively well in physical health and wellbeing and cognitive language development.
- East Lothian children obtain higher than average results at P1 for mathematics and phonics.
- Musselburgh West is the top scoring ward in East Lothian for P1 results, having risen from a position below the Scottish average in 2012/13.
- More young people stayed on at school to S5 and S6 in 2015 than in 2006.
- Since 2010/11, there has been an increase of 72.7% in the numbers of people starting modern apprenticeships.
- The percentage of children in East Lothian who are exclusively breastfed at both the time of their 6–8 Week and their 13–15 Month Reviews (37.8% and 9.7% respectively) remains higher than the Scottish average (32% and 8.5% respectively).

Where we need to improve

Widening inequalities in attainment

- The gap in 2018/19 across four of the curriculum components at P1 was greater than in 2017/18, and the gap between those with additional support needs or are looked after and all other children has widened. Attainment of Looked After Children at S4 is lower than for children at the same stage who are not looked after.
- Across the primary stages, the gap is widest for Writing and Listening & Talking at the P4 stage and at the P7 stage for Reading and Numeracy. The largest gap was at P7 in Writing (30 percentage points) and the smallest gap at P1 and P7 in Listening & Talking (11 percentage points).
- At the senior phase, the gap between most and least deprived increases from 2% on average at SCQF Level 3 to 48% on average at SCQF Level 6. The gap between those with ASN and those without increases from 9% on average at SCQF Level 4 to 27% on average at SCQF Level 5 and 41% at SCQF Level 6.
- The proportion of school leavers entering positive destinations is lower than the Scottish average.

We do not yet know the full extent of the impact of COVID on our children's learning but we anticipate that in some areas, the gap/s will have widened.

Demand for children's (social work) services

- Demand for children's (social work) services increased by 26% between 2018 and 2020. An average of 300 referrals are received each month. This has resulted in the need for us to work with partners to strengthen the focus on prevention and effective early intervention in order to reduce the demand for targeted social work services.
- The last two years saw a significant increase in the need for residential care placements for young people who were unable to live safely or be educated within their home communities.
- Similarly, there has been a rise in the need for external foster care placements which are considerably more expensive than our own local authority ones. The combination of the increase in demand

for external placements has meant an enormous financial challenge for the service.

Keeping young people engaged in school and included in families and communities

- In 2019, primary pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas had an attendance rate that was 2.5% lower than primary pupils living in the 20% least deprived areas. Secondary pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas had an attendance rate that was 9.8% lower than secondary pupils living in the 20% least deprived areas (an increase of 1.1% on the previous year).
- The attendance gap for children with Additional Support Needs (ASN) has increased over the past 5 years. The gap between attendance of Looked After Children (LAC) and non-LAC has increased over the past 5 years.
- Rates of exclusion for secondary pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas were 49.0 per 1,000 pupils compared with 9.0 per 1,000 pupils living in the 20% least deprived areas.

The Promise made clear that *“where children are safe in their families and feel loved they must stay – and families must be given support together, to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties which get in the way.”*

We have been working to reduce external placements and anticipate that we will continue to drive them down during the lifetime of this plan.

Demand for mental health services

Mental health is a significant concern for our young people in East Lothian with the rate of CAMHS referrals per 1000 (<18yrs) being 25.4% for East Lothian compared to 6.8% for Lothian and 5.3% for Scotland. In 2019/20

- For children under 12, 222 referrals were received, most came from Tranent and Musselburgh. Fewest referrals came from Haddington and North Berwick. Dunbar and Prestonpans were in the middle.
- For children over 12, 206 referrals were received, most were again from Musselburgh and Tranent
- For both age groups, high numbers of referrals were deemed not to be suitable for a service from CAMHS leaving children, young people and families frustrated and distressed.

CAMHS have been working with partners including primary care to improve communication to and from the service, and section 7 provides information about steps we will take to address the challenges around access to mental health services.

6. Learning from the last two years

In our 2018/19 review we noted that we had reviewed the effectiveness of the partnership and tested out new approaches to children's services planning. This included better use of data to inform priorities and demonstrate the impact of our collaborative work. 2019/20 saw the full implementation of the new integrated education and children's services department and the work towards re-launching our approach to Getting It Right For Every Child in East Lothian.

This has been informed by findings of work to review our approach and offer to children with additional support needs and a significant piece of work to review the drivers for the considerable increase in demand for care placements in children's services. Developing a strategic partnership approach to family and parenting support and improving young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing were strong themes that emerged within 2019/20.

We have made progress and are confident that the structural changes we have put in place will enable us to build on our successes. We want to go further though, if we are to achieve our aspirations for children, young people and families in East Lothian. We must learn from COVID. We have discovered some unexpected outcomes from our experience of delivering services during the pandemic and will build these into our collective work.

7. Our priorities

The story told by the evidence about our communities, and most importantly, what children, young people and families told us, led us to identify that these should be our priorities for 2020 – 2023:

1. Improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing

2. Supporting parents, carers and families to be more resilient

3. Reducing inequalities for children and young people

What will success look like?

If our plan works and we achieve our three priorities, what will be happening for children, young people, families and communities?

For children & young people:

- ☆ Children and young people feel safe and included in their schools and communities and fewer of them experience poor mental health
- ☆ More children and young people can stay with their families
- ☆ Children and young people are able to achieve their potential

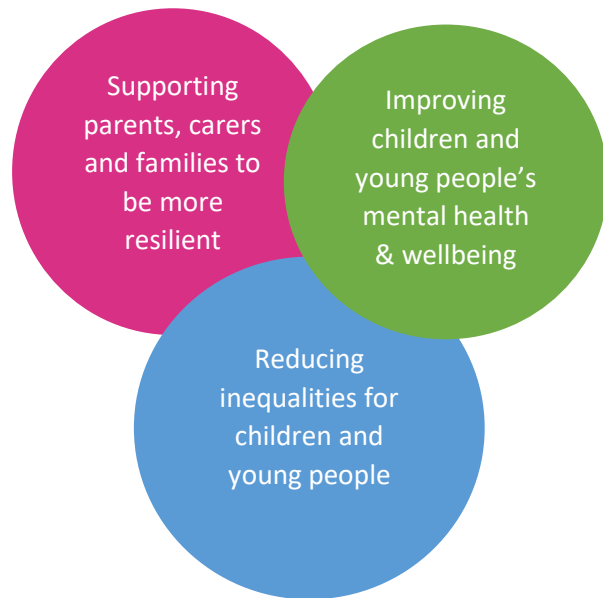
For families:

- ☆ Families receive help when they need it
- ☆ Families are encouraged and supported to seek help
- ☆ Families receive the right support at the right time

For communities:

- ☆ A strengths-based approach is taken to community development
- ☆ Families play a greater part in the lives of their communities
- ☆ Communities prosper as more people reach their fullest potential

Our three priorities build on work already underway, linking it more closely and providing a sharper focus on key areas, and all of our priorities are interconnected and interdependent:



Our priorities should therefore be seen as parts of a whole rather than individual, discrete elements.

A benefit of this is that it will encourage collaborative working across the different work areas, and facilitate the realignment of services which will be required to deliver our outcomes

Priority 1. Improving children's mental health and wellbeing

We are committed to improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing to help them cope with what is happening in their lives

Key objectives

1. Develop a workforce that is equipped and skilled to provide effective support for children's mental health and wellbeing
2. Ensure our services enable us to intervene at an early stage and prevent difficulties from worsening, within a tiered model of support.
3. Develop and implement a community mental health and wellbeing support service.

Priority 2. Supporting parents, carers and families to be more resilient

We are going to improve family and parenting support in East Lothian so that families get more support earlier, reducing the need for specialist services further downstream.

Key objectives

1. Develop a workforce that is equipped and skilled to build parenting and family resilience.

2. Redirect our resources and focus our collective spend towards early intervention and prevention.
3. Develop community parenting and family support services by empowering children, young people, families and communities as assets.
4. Enable the participation of children, young people and parents/carers in the development of our services.

Priority 3. Reducing inequalities for children and young people

Given the impact of the pandemic on officer capacity during 2020, this priority and supporting work streams will be developed and refined further during the early part of 2021. The implementation plan will be drawn from the areas set out below and where relevant, link with existing work underway within services to ensure a multi-agency approach to improving children's outcomes.

We are committed to reducing inequality for children and their families in East Lothian so they have the best chance to get the most out of their lives.

Promoting gender equality and children's human rights to reduce violence against women and girls and domestic abuse

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is the most common human rights violation of our time. Domestic abuse, and other forms of violence against women and girls, are recognised as both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality. Domestic abuse has a devastating effect on the lives of children and young people, impacting on physical and mental health, educational attainment and life chances and is a breach of their human rights. Young people can be both victims and perpetrators of gender-based violence, in addition to experiencing the abuse of (most likely) their mother.

There are strong links between domestic abuse and poverty. Nearly one in five women they surveyed were prevented by their abusive partner from having paid employment. A third reported that their partner was abusive towards them while they were at work or college, making it difficult for them to keep their job or complete their studies.

Before COVID-19, we were clear that we needed to take a reinvigorated approach to the VAWG agenda, focussing in particular on early intervention and prevention. The pandemic has made this even more urgent. The Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland's Children's Rights Impact Assessment on the response to COVID-19 in Scotland states that "The COVID-19 pandemic poses serious and particular risks to the rights of children who experience domestic abuse. The restrictions imposed to stop the spread of the virus have significant consequences for rights to protection, provision, prevention and education and participation.

They make it harder to report abuse, to seek help and for courts and service providers to respond effectively.

Children's rights and human rights

The rights and participation agenda will also contribute strongly to this priority, and East Lothian has strong experience of using innovative methods to explore children's views and understanding of their rights (see section 3 above). Moving on from this work, East Lothian will use the learning from the programme to ensure children and young people's voices and experience are integrated into service planning, policy and practice. The Scottish Government has committed to full incorporation of UNCRC to ensure children's rights are respected and protected in the law in Scotland and public authorities are legally required to respect and protect children's rights in all the work that they do. The new law will apply to all children and young people under the age of 18. It will mean that public authorities must take steps to respect children's rights in their decisions and actions and that children and young people will have to be involved and listened to in decisions about their own lives and communities.

Ensuring children and young people grow up with a strong understanding of their entitlement to have their voices heard, their views taken into account and their human rights respected, are effective protective factors against prejudice, abuse and inequality in childhood and beyond into adulthood. Public services, especially universal services and the third sector have a central role to play in promoting a rights-based approach and informing and educating children from early years upwards.

Participation

An important factor in our success will be having constructive challenge built in to this work from the outset. Participation of children, young people and families will be central to our approach.

Participation runs like a golden thread through UNCRC, GIRFEC and the ICR recommendations. We cannot achieve our aspiration of putting children, young people and families at the heart of our work, or take a meaningful, human rights -based approach, without participation.

Taking our inspiration from *Voice Against Violence* and *Everyday Heroes*, highly effective participation projects which worked with young people who had experienced domestic abuse and violence against women, we will use the ethics of participation developed by Dr Claire Houghton of Edinburgh University to ensure that our engagement with children and young people is safe, respectful and inclusive.

Tackling childhood obesity

In 2018, the Scottish Government pledged to halve childhood obesity by 2030. This was in recognition of the serious public health issue and the impact of children staying obese into adulthood and likelihood of experiencing diabetes and cardiovascular diseases at an earlier age. In September, the latest [Scottish Health Survey](#) report was published, detailing obesity prevalence across all age groups, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019 in Scotland:



Since the pledge was made, data indicates that not only has progress on childhood obesity prevalence halted, but inequalities in this area have got progressively worse with a widening gap in childhood obesity prevalence amongst those living in the least and most deprived areas of society. In 2018, prevalence of overweight or obesity in children was 24% in the least deprived areas and 31% in the most deprived areas: a difference of 7%. In 2019, prevalence was 23% in the least deprived areas, compared to 35% in the most deprived areas: a difference of 12%.

In March, Scotland entered a state of national lockdown. By 20th March all schools in Scotland closed, with children only returning to full time face-to-face learning mid-August. During that time, children's lives were impacted dramatically. Not only were schools impacted, but the coronavirus measures also impacted children's physical activity, sports classes and other activities, with research from [Public Health Scotland](#) reporting that 5 in 10 children did less physical activity, and only 2 in 10 did more. With obesity found to be a [risk factor](#) in the severity of COVID-19, and links identified between obesity and poorer outcomes in younger people, the need to improve the health of Scotland's population has never been more urgent.

In East Lothian, 2017/18 data indicates that over one fifth of children (21.9%) in the county who were seen as part of Primary 1 screening were at risk of being overweight or obese, which is just marginally better than the Lothian figure of 22.5% and the national figure of 22.4%. Within this priority work stream, the CSP will develop and test a multi-agency approach to reducing childhood obesity in pre-school and very young children.

Overcoming barriers to improving educational attainment

We recognise the challenge in achieving and sustaining improvements in reducing educational inequalities and closing the poverty related attainment gap for children living in our most deprived communities. While this is an agreed core priority for the education service, we will identify opportunities for a multi-agency partnership approach in one locality.

Strengthening vocational education

The importance of education in improving the life chances of children and young people is currently more evident than ever before. COVID-19 has given us an exciting opportunity to look again at our offer to young people in the county and consider how we can match it more closely to their needs and aspirations.

We know that school is not a good fit for all of our young people and that not all will wish to continue on an academic path. For those young people, college can provide the opportunity to develop the skills which will enable them to move out of entry level, low skilled jobs into careers with higher pay, providing long term financial stability, as well as the dignity of employment in an area which matches their interests and capabilities.

1. Further develop our work to embed children's rights and participation with children, young people and carers.
2. Reduce the inequality gap in children's health and educational attainment.

3. Develop a workforce for reducing inequalities for children and young people and for embedding children's rights and participation.
4. Focus our spend on early intervention and prevention.

Please see appendix 1 for details of the implementation plans.

8. Resourcing & commissioning

The Coalition of Care and Support Providers worked with third sector children's services partners in East Lothian to support the development of stronger collaboration between the sector and statutory partners, with a particular emphasis on commissioning through the Children's Services Planning process. A further piece of work will develop a draft Commissioning Strategy that will sit under the CSP and be governed by the Partnership.

1. All relevant funding and resources are allocated to our priorities.
2. All relevant partners adopt these priorities as the focus for intervention, adopting a co-production approach with service users which recognises both their rights and strengths.
3. Collaboration rather than competition underpins our partnership approach. ALL partners (including those responsible for funding) practice and prioritise this approach when developing interventions.
4. The third sector are recognised as key early intervention/prevention services and early intervention funding and investment supports this role.
5. Funding decisions align with identified priorities, recognising the inherent rights (through UNCRC/GIRFEC Wellbeing Indicators) of children and young people.
6. A consistent, evidence-based evaluation process will be applied to all funded initiatives and projects, with a clear line of sight to Children's Services Plan priorities and anticipated outcomes.
7. We adopt the 'best interest' approach (for the child or group of children we are focussed on) when having difficult conversations. This will inform decision making.
8. We emphasis 'what works' rather than historically funded/self-interest initiatives and approaches.

The following principles were agreed:

9. Equipping our workforce to deliver the priorities

Workforce development is a critical ingredient of the East Lothian Children and Young People's Services Plan. There is a need for strong leadership and a culture which focuses on learning and not blame and promotes reflective, evidence-based practice. We know that it is relationships, alongside our robust policies and procedures, that help to keep our children and young people safe - relationships with our children, young people and parents, relationships within each team/service, inter-agency relationships and relationships with the wider community. We must maximise opportunities to learn and develop together to embed common values and language and outcome focused practice.

The plan also sets out the need for all agencies to gain a comprehensive knowledge and understanding in relation to:

Trauma Informed Practice

We will ensure our staff are trained to enable them to deliver **trauma informed services** by following the NHS NES trauma informed practice model. This means that:

- People affected by trauma, their families and supporters are aware of what services they can receive at different points in their recovery journey.
- Workers will have the knowledge and skills required to successfully deliver quality, evidence-based trauma informed or trauma specific services to people affected by traumatic events (depending on their role).
- Staff will have the necessary knowledge and skills to meet the needs of people affected by trauma, their families, carers and supporters.

Getting It Right for Every Child

- All agencies will have an understanding of Education's refreshed Child's Planning Framework and their role within this when multi-agency support is being considered for any child or young person and will be expected to have this embedded in their work.
- In particular, all staff including those in Education require to have a refresh of their responsibilities for GIRFEC with key staff receiving training on the use of the framework to enable the assessment and planning of children and young people in order to support their development, wellbeing and barriers to learning.

Signs of Safety

All agencies will have an understanding of how Children's Services (SW) uses this approach to assess, analyse and plan with children, young people at their parents/ carers to reduce risk and promote safety.

- **This will help** to ensure a consistent approach which promotes honest and respectful discussions around concerns and worries where there is a shared understanding of the purpose, goals and what needs to change.
- There will be a culture of critical thinking and reflective practice at all levels.
- All plans for children / young people will focus on their everyday lived experience and embed the principles of SMART planning.

Safe and Together

All agencies have a common understanding of the Safe and Together practice model which aims to improve how systems and practitioners respond to the issue of domestic abuse.

Nurture

All services around the child/young person will gain insight into the interventions which focus on supporting their social, emotional and learning needs in order to reduce or remove barriers to learning.

Mental Health

We will develop a workforce training offer for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing using multi-agency training approaches. This will ensure:

- improved consistency of workforce development.
- a shared understanding of mental health and wellbeing and a common language across the county.
- a tiered approach to mental health training.
- all staff have access to appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to their role.
- The CYP workforce is more competent and confident in supporting CYP's mental health and wellbeing.

We also recognise, in relation to COVID-19, as Dr Linda de Caestecker, Director of Public Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde notes in her foreword to *Ending Childhood Adversity: a public health approach* (June 2020) that "Supporting the mental health and recovery of our workforce in a trauma-informed way will be important during and following this pandemic.

10. Collaborative leadership & governance arrangements

Shared leadership will be vital to this Plan's success. An ambitious, transformational plan for change requires a strong agreed vision and a

commitment to look beyond service boundaries in order to deliver. Communication is also key, and a communications strategy will be developed aimed at children and young people, families, communities and staff, explaining how we will change our services to deliver better outcomes, so everyone is clear what they can expect from us and what their contribution will be. The Children's Strategic Partnership is leading by example in developing shared leadership and partnership approaches together across the delivery of the Plan.

We will build the Care Inspectorate's core elements of effective leadership into taking this work forward:

www.careinspectorate.com

Reporting and governance arrangements

The Children's Strategic Partnership will be responsible for the ongoing development and delivery of the plan.

In addition, the CSP will have five supporting and reporting groups:

Three priority work streams.

The corporate parenting board.

The GIRFEC oversight group.

Each of these groups will report to the CSP prior to its meetings. Project management tools will be used to identify risks and track progress.

East Lothian Children's Strategic Partnership



Children's
Social Work

East Lothian
Health & Social Care Partnership



Volunteer
Centre East
Lothian

Education

Elected
Members



East Lothian Partnership Structures

Governance Group = Council, NHS, Police, Fire, Scottish Enterprise, Third Sector, Higher Education. Approves processes, ensures delivery, resolves issues

ELP Forum = including representation of the 6 Area Partnerships, resourcing partners, other Partners. Brings together partners and community bodies to collaborate on improving outcome for local people

Strategic Partnerships, Planning & Delivery Groups and Area Partnerships

Partnerships = a range of multi-agency groups, each responsible for delivering relevant aspects of East Lothian Plan and Locality Plans



Just the start...

Our Education and Children's Services Plan lays out where we want to get to for children and young people in East Lothian and what we need to do to get there. It is, however, just the start of the work which will be required to make our vision a day to day reality, and bring the transformational change that we need. We can, we will and we must do better for our children and young people. The Children's Strategic Partnership is fully committed to doing so and to achieving an East Lothian where children and young people's mental health and wellbeing is improved, where families and parents are resilient and able to cope better with life's challenges, where inequalities are reduced and life feels fairer. Services will feel seamless to those using them, interventions will take place earlier and therefore be at a lower scale. Staff will feel confident and empowered to respond where difficulties start to emerge. And children, young people and families in East Lothian will be able to participate in the implementation of this Plan and hold us to account on our delivery of it.

APPENDIX 1

Priority 1: Improving children’s mental health and wellbeing

Good mental health and wellbeing is fundamental to thriving in life. It is the essence of who we are and how we experience the world. Mental health and wellbeing is of central importance to the development, attainment, social and emotional health and positive destinations for children and young people. From birth to 25 years a young person’s life is made up of relationship building, challenges, transitions, and experiences that shape and make the adult they become. Mental health and wellbeing spans across a number of linked areas. This includes promoting good mental health and wellbeing - a focus on keeping children and young people well, able to flourish in their daily lives and to make and maintain relationships and decisions that are positive for them.

East Lothian advocates a holistic approach to good mental health and wellbeing. This aspiration requires the fully committed partnership approach, which recognises that improving mental health and wellbeing is everyone’s business. This priority brings together knowledge and learning from across a wide variety of services and stakeholders to outline what East Lothian sees as its priorities to ensure children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing remains a key focus. The scope and scale of this work must take into consideration national and local priorities for ensuring the mental health and wellbeing needs of people living in East Lothian are met.

The Children’s Strategic Partnership recognises the importance of pooled resources and an asset-based approach to mental health and wellbeing to promote self-care and self-management support, where it is correct to do so, building community capacity and resilience aiming for wellbeing in which the goal is parity between mental and physical health. In understanding child and young people’s mental health it is crucial to see their context and family situation, as well as their wider social community. The approach makes clear the importance of a focus on the determinants of poor mental health and wellbeing and to addressing stigma, discrimination and all inequalities. The prevention of poor mental health means equipping children and young people, and the adults around them, with skills and tools that can support them when there are challenges and when they are experiencing life events which could interfere with their mental health. Early intervention and prevention is a prerequisite to improving the mental health and wellbeing of all. Having the right resources and pathways to support young people is crucial and being able to develop this on a local level is also important. Care and support as well as treatment for children and young people who develop mental ill health or conditions which impact on their mental health is again a key priority moving forward.

Aims - What will we do?	Actions - How will we do this?	Outcomes - What change will we achieve?	Indicators - How will we know?
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<p>Develop a workforce training and development offer to support children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Develop a tiered framework outlining the offer of mental health training across East Lothian to improve the consistency of workforce development.</p> <p>Engage with key organisations to gain a clear understanding of staff roles, the challenges in regard to capacity and capability of the future workforce, and the skills, knowledge and confidence needed across the workforce.</p> <p>Review mental health awareness and suicide prevention training currently available, identify and address gaps, and develop a strategic approach to delivery using a multi-agency approach.</p> <p>Promote awareness of Trauma-Informed practice. Utilise CAMHS support for clinical supervision and peer coaching to build capacity and increase the delivering of evidence based support and interventions.</p>	<p>Improved consistency of workforce development across all agencies and services working with children and young people (CYP).</p> <p>Increased awareness and understanding of mental health and wellbeing issues for CYP.</p> <p>Improved capacity and confidence in staff to support CYP with mental health and wellbeing concerns.</p> <p>Improved understanding of traumatic events and experiences and the different ways that people can be affected by them.</p> <p>A shared understanding of mental health and wellbeing and a shared language across the county.</p>	<p>Increase in numbers of staff accessing the identified training for their role.</p> <p>Improvement in number of appropriate referrals to mental health supports.</p> <p>Increase in staff confidence in supporting CYP mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Feedback from National Trauma Training programme.</p> <p>Evidence of joint working across agencies and services to support CYP mental health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>Develop a focus on early intervention and preventative support and services to promote children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Develop a multi-agency Mental Health and Wellbeing single point of access to a range of evidence based supports and interventions to deliver “ask once, get help fast”.</p> <p>Develop and extend the range of mental health and wellbeing supports and interventions on offer to support children, young people and their families by working in partnership with key services, external mental health organisations and third sector partners.</p> <p>Through data identify any gaps in provision and supports, giving specific consideration to those who are known to have poorer mental health outcomes or struggle to access</p>	<p>Comprehensive offer of evidence based interventions to improve the mental health and wellbeing of CYP.</p> <p>Increase in multi-agency working that is proactive and allows services to intervene early.</p> <p>Increased access to supports from a range of services.</p> <p>Increased capacity to deliver targeted interventions.</p>	<p>Increased numbers of CYP accessing targeted interventions.</p> <p>Reduction in referrals to statutory services.</p> <p>Reduction in rejected referrals to statutory services.</p> <p>Improved mental health and wellbeing of CYP referred to the single point of access.</p>

	<p>services (e.g. Young Carers, care experienced, LGBT+, BME, CYP with LD and ASD).</p> <p>Implement the school counselling service for CYP age 10-18 years.</p> <p>Improve school based capacity to support the mental health and wellbeing of CYP through the Wellbeing Academy project.</p> <p>Implement and support the delivery of the Building Resilience programme in all primary schools promoting and making links to the growing confidence programme. Provide a named CAMHS practitioner for all schools.</p> <p>Develop and coordinate a peer support programme 'listening ears' within each secondary school to encourage young people to share their experiences to help and support each other.</p>	<p>Increased whole school approaches to supporting mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>CYP will have access to greater support from a range of services beyond mental health with a view to improve and maintain self-care, self-esteem, build resilience reinforcing their whole wellbeing.</p>	<p>Improvement in whole school outcomes of mental health and wellbeing as evidence in school reviews and Education Scotland inspections.</p>
<p>Develop community based support and services which support children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Increase mental health and wellbeing supports and interventions in community settings that are easily accessible and appropriate to needs.</p> <p>Develop clear, accessible points of contact and access to community services that strengthen partnerships with CAMHS.</p> <p>Provision of support for families and carers whenever a child or young person is receiving support from CAMHS. Maximise community assets and opportunities to drive key messages about mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Harness the contribution of the community and voluntary sectors to bring in additional resources.</p> <p>Maximise opportunities for outdoor play.</p>	<p>Increased confidence in parents and young people to support mental health and wellbeing concerns.</p> <p>Reduced social isolation of children, young people and families.</p> <p>Greater awareness of mental wellbeing supports and reduced stigma.</p> <p>Improved partnership working to support CYP mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Increased numbers of CYP accessing targeted community-based interventions.</p> <p>Reduction in referrals to statutory services.</p> <p>Reduction in rejected referrals to statutory services.</p>

Enable the participation of children, young people and parents/carers in co-production of our supports and services.	Develop a student ambassador programme that focuses on children and young people being at the heart of our mental health and wellbeing services. Establish a forum in each area partnership that allows the voice of the child, young person and family to be heard and actioned.	Improved engagement of CYP and families in designing and promoting services and supports.	

Priority 2: Supporting parents, carers and families to be more resilient

We are going to improve family and parenting support in East Lothian so that families get more support earlier, reducing the need for specialist services further downstream

How will we do this? We will:

- Develop a workforce for parenting and family resilience
- Focus our spend on early intervention and prevention
- Develop community parenting and family support services by empowering children, young people, families and communities as assets
- Enable the participation of children, young people and parents/carers in the development of our services

We have a solid base of universal parenting support provided by a range of services and partners. Through the Support from the Start network there is a good spread of lower level targeted interventions aimed at “amber” families. We have staff across the county trained to deliver evidence-based parenting programmes. We also have a Parental Engagement Strategy supported by a range of commitments.

Our offer to families is:

- We will ensure that we have people with the right skills supporting families at as early a point as possible and that we offer training opportunities across the workforce in a range of interventions from universal to targeted.
- We want to provide support which can make a difference to parents and carers whether they need a little information and support, or have long term needs, from pre-birth through to adulthood.

- We will ensure that we offer a broad range of preventive and early intervention approaches from universal to targeted intensive support and commit to intervention at the earliest opportunity to support positive changes in their child’s and family’s life.
- We will ensure that where additional support and services are required, these are flexible and accessible to suit the needs of families and acknowledge that for some families this support may be life-long.
- We will promote perinatal infant mental health and test out a new way of working with women who may be more vulnerable during pregnancy.
- We will test out a different way of working with families upstream in a way which will avoid statutory interventions downstream by adopting a locality-based multi-agency approach through the innovative Our Families Project in Musselburgh East. The Project will provide support to families and also ensure that families have their incomes maximised and adults are supported on their journey along the Strategic Skills Pipeline. This links to our priority of reducing inequality.
- We will also deliver the targeted evidence-based parenting programmes Incredible Years and Triple P, in addition to supporting the roll out of the Solihull parenting resource which has been available online to all parents funded by the Scottish Government during COVID.
- The East Lothian Parental Engagement Strategy aims to ensure that all parents and carers are encouraged and supported to engage as partners in their children’s learning, and to become involved in the life of the school. The strategy also ensures that it can continue to build on good practice and create further opportunities for our parents and schools to work together. Its publication follows consultation with and collaboration between parents, head teachers, early learning and childcare colleagues, and key education officers. The strategy is reviewed annually in line with legislation.
- The core aims of the strategy are to ensure that parents and carers:
 - Are made to feel welcome and included
 - Are engaged with their children’s learning
 - Are communicated with in a variety of ways
 - Are able to contribute to Family Learning opportunities
 - Are able to access support
 - Are encouraged to participate in Parent Council meetings and Forums

We recognise the value of working in partnership and the commitment made to ensure parents and young people are given the opportunity to influence and shape education policy and to be included in the life and the work of their child’s school. We believe that fostering positive partnerships between parents and schools is absolutely key to securing the best outcomes for our children and young people, and this strategy demonstrates the Council’s commitment to helping all parents and carers to be engaged at a level that is right for them.”

Link to full document

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/23219/parental_engagement_strategy_-_full_document

Link to summary document

Aims - What will we do?	Actions - How will we do this?	Outcomes - What change will we achieve?	Indicators - How will we know?
<p>1. Develop a workforce that is equipped and skilled to build parenting and family resilience.</p>	<p>Ensure that we have people with the right skills supporting families at as early a point as possible.</p> <p>Look at how we utilise our existing family support workforce and move towards ensuring early help and support is available.</p> <p>Promote awareness of Trauma informed practice.</p> <p>Ensure the delivery of training opportunities across the workforce in a range of interventions from universal to targeted.</p> <p>Training in the Solihull Approach is made available to a wider range of practitioners to ensure this approach underpins our work with families.</p>	<p>Practitioners will use existing skills in early help and support.</p> <p>A tiered offer of family support will be developed.</p> <p>Increased understanding of traumatic events and experiences and the different ways that people can be affected by them.</p> <p>Improved consistency of workforce development.</p> <p>Greater understanding of the importance of early attachment.</p>	<p>Reduction in referrals to statutory services.</p> <p>A range of family support options will be available.</p> <p>Numbers of practitioners reported to have completed training. Increased staff confidence.</p> <p>Numbers of staff trained in different interventions Numbers of staff reported to deliver evidence based programmes.</p> <p>Numbers of staff trained in the approach.</p>

<p>2.Redirect our resources and focus our spend on early intervention and prevention</p>	<p>Develop perinatal mental health supports and services specifically Grow Together at Olivebank CFC and A Good Start Programme in Tranent, Prestonpans and Musselburgh.</p> <p>Testing a new way of multi-agency working on a locality basis through the Our Families Project in Musselburgh East.</p> <p>Review our approach to how we manage and fund family support as a Children Service’s Partnership by developing a commissioning strategy or framework which is aligned to the Shared Principles Paper produced in collaboration with our third sector partners.</p>	<p>Parents will be able to provide more nurturing parenting patterns which will help to address inter-generational trauma and support the development of resilience in children.</p> <p>Families will be able to access early help and support re money advice, employability, and child and family wellbeing support within their own communities.</p> <p>A Commissioning Strategy is in place and there are no gaps in provisions nor areas of duplication.</p>	<p>Fewer unborn/ babies subject to child protection measures or statutory care.</p> <p>Reduced stress and more secure attachment patterns between parent and child.</p> <p>Increased school attendance Increase in number of adults progressing along the Strategic Skills Pipeline. Families have income maximised. Reduction in referrals to Children’s Services.</p> <p>The right services and supports are available where they are most needed.</p>
<p>3- Develop community parenting and family support services by empowering children, young people, families and communities as assets</p>	<p>Test using a Family Group Decision Making process to capture children, young people, families and communities voices and ensure they resonate throughout the design, development and delivery of services. This will be tested in Our Families Project.</p>	<p>The service will be relevant and take full account of the existing assets within families and the community.</p>	<p>Children, young people, families and communities will report that they feel the service is more relevant to their needs. Existing assets are utilised effectively.</p>

	<p>Explore different ways of engaging with children, young people, families and their communities.</p> <p>Review our current provision across the county, identifying gaps and areas of duplication and ensure that funding is co-ordinated and based on need.</p> <p>Map existing services, resources and provision currently in place to support parents and families.</p> <p>Ensure that there are effective links and connections between existing service, local area and third sector locality plans.</p> <p>Ensure that support is accessible, appropriate, timely and effective for families via statutory and third sector partners and can be positively evaluated.</p>	<p>Tools and strategies are identified and utilised to effectively engage with children, young people, families and communities.</p> <p>We will know what is available and where to support parents and families.</p> <p>We will be able to direct services and resources to families and communities with the greatest identified needs.</p> <p>There will be no gaps in resource provision and no duplication within specific areas.</p> <p>Parenting Pathways are available and updated for each cluster and for across East Lothian. Parents are signposted at the earliest stage to the relevant community support or parenting programme. Parenting programmes and groups will be readily available.</p>	<p>Evidence gathered both quantitative and qualitative.</p> <p>Lead Officer will maintain an up to date mapping of resources and activities.</p> <p>Mapping positively reflects identified needs. Families will be able to access appropriate resources and services.</p> <p>Number of parenting programmes delivered. Evaluations gathered and centrally collated.</p>
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	<p>Ensure that a menu of evidenced based parenting supports and programmes both universal and targeted is readily accessible.</p> <p>Organisations capture and share information on family support that can be monitored.</p>	<p>Parents will be able to access appropriate evidence-based programmes, Incredible Years or Triple P.</p> <p>Information gathered through evaluations will be collated centrally by the Lead Officer.</p>	<p>Information gathered from evaluation of funded interventions and programmes.</p> <p>We will know that interventions and programmes which are funded and delivered are making a difference.</p>
<p>4- Enable the participation of children, young people and parents/carers in the development of our services</p>	<p>Test using a Family Group Decision Making process to capture children, young people, families and communities voices and ensure they resonate throughout the design, development and delivery of services. This will be tested in Our Families Project.</p> <p>Engage with the Champs Board to explore ways of gathering the views of young people.</p> <p>Use existing networks like Support from the Start, Area Partnerships and third sector partners to enable participation at a local level.</p>	<p>The service will be relevant and take full account of the existing assets within families and the community.</p>	<p>Engagement events, minutes of meetings and collaborative plans.</p>

Priority 3. Reducing inequalities for children and young people

Given the impact of the pandemic on officer capacity during 2020, this priority and supporting work streams will be developed and refined further during the early part of 2021. The implementation plan will be drawn from the areas set out in section 7 (Our priorities) and where relevant, link with existing work underway within services to ensure a multi-agency approach to improving children's outcomes.

APPENDIX 2

Core data set

Theme	Performance Indicator	SMART Target	Latest Validated Data
Mental Health	Percentage of CAMHS referrals seen within 18 weeks for first treatment Median Wait - generic services	Scot Gov target (2019) - 90% of children to receive treatment within 18 weeks of referrals to CAMHS	2019/20 Scotland - % East Lothian 41.9% Lothian 41%
Mental Health	Reduction in no. of rejected referrals to CAMHS (reduced inappropriate referrals)	National Benchmark: ≤20% of referrals rejected	2019/20 Scotland - % East Lothian 36.1% Lothian 28.5%
Total Child Population	Drop off in breastfeeding (babies who have ever been breastfed that have stopped by 6-8 weeks)	Scot Gov target - 10% reduction in drop off rate by 6-8 week review by 2025 (broken down into 2% drop off per year)	2018/19 Scotland 33.6 % East Lothian % Lothian 25.9%
Total Child Population	Percentage of eligible children receiving a 6-8 week review Based on the UP data, for children born in 2019/2020	Public Health Scot target - 100% of eligible cohort to be offered the 6-8 review within the appropriate timescales	2019/20 Scotland - % East Lothian 100% Lothian 92%
Total Child Population	Percentage of eligible children receiving a 13-15 month review	Public Health Scotland target -100% of eligible cohort to be offered the 13-15 month screening review within the appropriate timescales	2018/19 Scotland 71.2% East Lothian 89.5% Lothian 90.8%
Total Child Population	Percentage of 27-30 month children receiving a developmental and wellbeing review	Public Health Scotland target - 100 % of the eligible cohort to be offered the 13-15 month screening review within the appropriate timescales	2018/19 Scotland 91.2% East Lothian 86.6 % Lothian 88.9%
Total Child Population	Percentage of pre-school & school age children where a child health assessment was completed within 56 days of the child being registered on a caseload.	Excellence in Care target - 100% of children will have child health assessment within the target time.	New 2020 data field to report from 2021
Total Child Population	Percentage of overweight & obese children in Primary 1 screening % at risk of being overweight or obese - BMI≥85th (lower limit of 95% confidence interval)	WHO/SG target 2018 - 50% reduction in childhood obesity by 2030	2017/18 Scotland 22.4% East Lothian 21.9% Lothian 22.5%

Total Child Population	% of Children who have had their MMR2 & preschool boosters	Health Scotland target - 95% of children to have had their MMR 2 and pre-school booster each year	<i>2019/20</i> Scotland 94.6% East Lothian 93.9% Lothian 93.8%
Vulnerable Child	Percentage of Looked After Children offered a comprehensive health assessment	100% of children up to age of 18 years of age to be offered LAC health assessment	New 2020 data field to report from 2021
Vulnerable Child	Percentage of looked after children's health assessments completed within 4 weeks of referral being received CEL16	100% of children where consent has been obtained should have a LAC health assessment undertaken within 4 weeks	<i>2019/20</i> Scotland - % East Lothian 92.5% Lothian 88.8%

APPENDIX 3

Children's Services planning in East Lothian

Children's services planning is mainstreamed in all of these areas:

East Lothian Plan/ Local Outcome Improvement Plan - [The East Lothian Plan](#)

Health & Social Care strategic plan – [East Lothian integrated joint board strategic plan](#)

EMPPC business plan - [East Lothian and Midlothian public protection committee annual report 2019](#)

Child Poverty Action Report - [Child poverty action report 2019](#)

Local Housing strategy - [Local Housing strategy 2018-23](#)

Local Development Plan - [Local development plan 2019](#)

Corporate parenting plan - [East Lothian Corporate parenting plan 2017-2020](#)

National Improvement Framework - [2019 national improvement framework and improvement plan](#)

Early Learning and Child Care - [Early learning and childcare](#)

Self-directed support - [Self directed support information](#)

Carer strategy - [Carer strategy 2018-2021](#)

Fairer Scotland Duty- [Mainstreaming the equality duty](#)

NHS Child Health Plan

Community Learning & Development

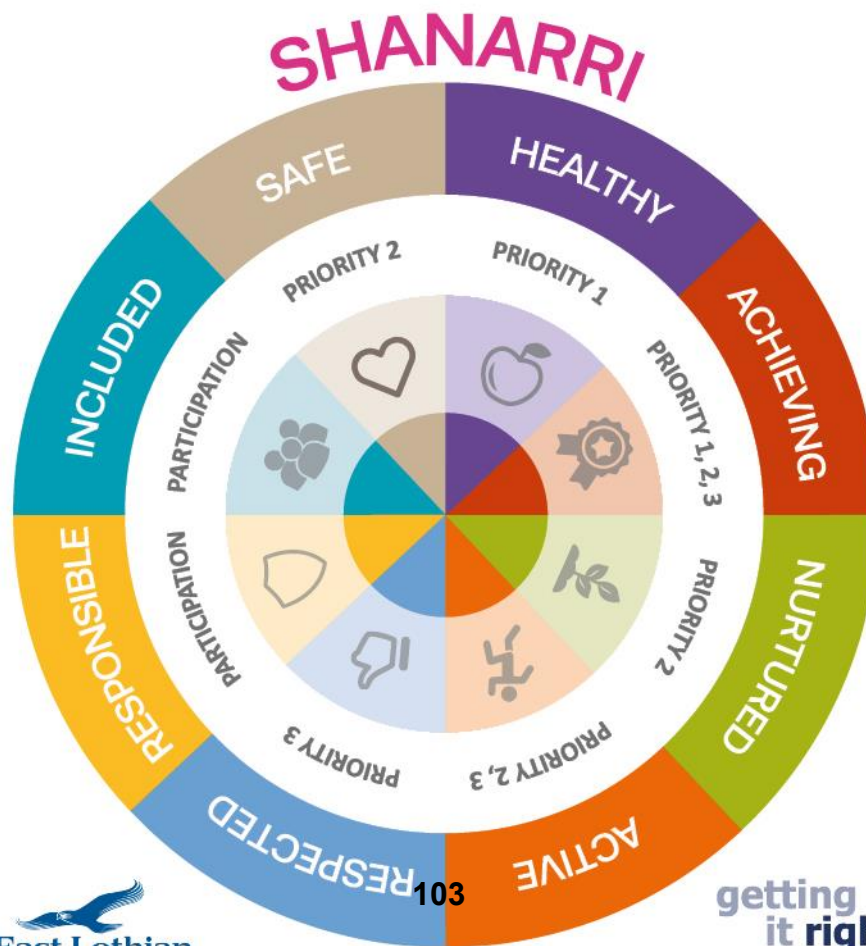
Equally Safe Delivery Plan

Youth Justice and Community Justice

Mid and East Lothian strategic plan

APPENDIX 4

How our Plan links with the GIRFEC Wellbeing indicators



How our Plan links with the UNCRC guiding principles:

Being non-discriminatory *Priority 3*

Right to life, survival and development *Priority 1,2*

Doing what is in the best interests of the child *Priority 1,2,3*

Meaningfully engaging children and young people *Participation*

Article 12: Children have the right to a say in all matters affecting them. *Participation*

How our Plan links with the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework:

Children & young people – we grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential *Priority 2*

Poverty – we tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally *Priority 3*

Health – we are healthy and active *Priority 2*

Human rights – we respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination *Priority 3*

Education – we are well-educated, skilled and able to contribute to society *Priority 1,2,3*



Versions of this leaflet can be supplied in Braille, large print, audiotape or in your own language. Please phone Customer Services if you require assistance on 01620 827199



East Lothian
Council

East Lothian Council
John Muir House
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EH41 3HA

www.eastlothian.gov.uk
Call Centre **01620 827 827**

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 23 February 2021

BY: Executive Director for Place

SUBJECT: Cockenzie Former Power Station Site Update /
National Planning Framework 4: Position Statement
and Associated Response

7

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update Council on the high level optioneering study into the creation of a cruise/port-related facility at Cockenzie previously reported in May 2020; to advise on the ongoing engagement with Scottish Government; to advise on the associated position of Prestonpans Community Council, and on a further community idea proposed for the Cockenzie site; and additionally, to seek approval of a response to the Scottish Government's recently published National Planning Framework 4: Position Statement.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To consider the information contained within the AECOM forecast update report dated January 2021, as set out at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 To note the ongoing engagement with Scottish Government officials following the request to meet with the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, and senior civil servants, as agreed by Council in May 2020.
- 2.3 To note the suggestion from Prestonpans Community Council to form a Steering Group/Development Company to promote and deliver development at the Cockenzie site, and to agree this as premature at this stage in the context of the Scottish Minister's processes for preparing National Planning Framework 4.
- 2.4 To note the submission of a community led 360 degree vision for part of the former power station footprint of the site, as set out at Appendix 2.

- 2.5 To approve a response to the National Planning Framework 4 Position Statement, a draft of which is included at Appendix 3.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Council determined in February 2019 to have a high level Optioneering Study into the creation of a Cruise/Port-related facility at Cockenzie; this was completed and reported to Council in May 2020. In consideration of the report, the Council agreed to write to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning to seek a meeting to provide clarity regarding the potential for development of cruise and port-related infrastructure at Cockenzie. Group Leaders collectively wrote to the Minister following the Council decision.
- 3.2 The Minister responded and advised that whilst he was unable to meet he promoted in response that key members of the National Planning Framework 4 team would be happy to meet with the Council.
- 3.3 Council officers met with Scottish Government Planning, Architecture & Design (PAD) on the 19 August 2020. At that meeting PAD officers set out where they were that in terms of the Development Plan process; assimilating inputs that they had received as part of their consultation process. As part of the discussion we specifically focused in on the potential for port and cruise and reflected on the optioneering study that we had shared in advance of the meeting. We weren't able to determine from this session alone whether Cockenzie will feature in respect of any national strategy or plans for port/cruise and if it were to, to what extent. In general the meeting was positive and Council officers left the meeting hopeful that our NPF4 candidate proposal would be influential in shaping an updated policy position. It is important to note that our candidate NPF4 proposal is of course much wider than Cockenzie alone and focuses on the opportunities of co-ordinated action in respect of the proposed new settlement and the ClimatEvolution Zone.
- 3.4 Council officers met again with Scottish Government Planning and Architecture Division (PAD) colleagues, including the Chief Planner, on 8 February 2021. Further update was provided in relation to the timeline for NPF4 with a draft National Plan intended to be laid before parliament in autumn 2021. The plan will remain within parliamentary process for scrutiny for up to 120 days before being approved following, any agreed amendments, in spring/summer 2022. Scottish Government colleagues flagged upcoming engagement regionally in respect of Regional Spatial Strategies and that they continue to consider all candidate National Development submissions submitted to them and could not express a view on the merits of any of them at this stage. The current National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy remains in place until NPF4 is adopted by Ministers.
- 3.5 Council officers provided update on ongoing work around the new settlement, the ClimatEvolution Zone and Cockenzie. The conversation

was again collegiate and positive. Following progress made and in relation to Cockerzie specifically we agreed to engage again around the assets of national interest and the consideration now of defining site boundaries in that context, acknowledging that this is something that NPF3 does not do.

3.6 While continuing engagement with Scottish Government, Council officials also asked AECOM to undertake some further work on the previous optioneering study, primarily to inform and better understand the impact that the current pandemic may have had on the viability of a cruise/port-related facility at Cockerzie.

3.7 The update report provides a revised assessment, revisiting the market review, basic financial model and calculation of economic benefit reflecting the current state of the cruise market, the effects of the pandemic, likely impact on future investment and timescale for recovery of the industry. Consultation was undertaken with cruise operators and their port agents, Forth Ports, and with other ports that receive cruise vessels. The AECOM report is enclosed as Appendix 1, the principle points of which are:

- a) Central to the resumption of cruising is the frequent testing of passengers and crew, vessels operating at less than full capacity to allow social distancing on board and keeping passengers in groups or bubbles when ashore.
- b) It is estimated that 4-5% of the global cruise fleet will be scrapped or put to other use. Orders for new vessels have been deferred by at least 1 year.
- c) Operators were intending to resume operations in April 2021 at reduced capacity and cruising mainly in one country. This will have been impacted on by the current situation and any resumption will rely heavily on vaccination being successful and widespread.
- d) Demand remains strong but the recovery period is likely to feature smaller cruise ships, regional cruising, downward pressure on port tariffs and reduced spending ashore.
- e) It is assumed cruise activity will return to 2019 levels in 2023.
- f) Taking 2024 as the base year it will be a further 3 years before revenue (estimated surplus) levels catch up to and return to the base level.
- g) It will be 6 years before the assumed economic benefit returns to base level.
- h) The growth in cruise calls and total number of passengers cruising in the Forth is expected to recover but is deferred by the effects of the pandemic. Similarly the total revenue generated would lag behind the original assessment extending pay back on investment projections.

In conclusion the AECOM report considered the impact of the pandemic and the case for Cockerzie, premised to some extent on the summary of consultation findings outlined in page 20, *appendix b*, of the report:

Impacts of the Pandemic;

The pandemic severely impacted the cruise industry in 2020. It is expected to recover strongly once effective means of suppressing coronavirus are found but it remains uncertain how long that will take. Using a reasonably conservative interpretation of stakeholder views of when the industry will be restored to 2019 levels of operation and growth, this assessment has found the viability of Cockenzie cruise facility is likely to be lower, albeit not to a significant degree.

The direct financial impact is relatively minor, extending the payback period by approximately one year. The impact on economic benefit is similarly marginal. These results are of course highly variable due to the uncertainty of how soon the effects of coronavirus can be adequately suppressed. However, the fundamentals that made the cruise industry viable and a strong growth industry have not changed, and demand for cruising remains strong, albeit temporarily suspended due to the pandemic.

Detailed design of a Cockenzie cruise facility will need to include spaces for testing passengers, isolating positive cases, and facilitate the hospitalisation or repatriation of passengers who test positive.

The Case for Cockenzie:

For most ports cruise traffic is a marginal business. Dedicated cruise facilities in the UK have only come about where a large cruise operator is willing to make a commitment in terms of utilisation, e.g. Southampton Cruise Terminal developed by ABP.

Port operators review the case for investing in facilities to either grow or at least maintain their level of cruise traffic periodically but the pandemic has made that a very low priority. However, once the recovery has taken place there is nothing to suggest the dynamics of investing in cruise facilities would be any different to prior to the pandemic.

The cruise operators contacted were asked if they would ever consider investing in cruise terminals generally, possibly through a consortium of non-competing cruise lines (serving different market segments) but this is not something they perceive as worthwhile. From the cruise operator's point of view there are hundreds of ports they call at each year so investing in any one port is not worthwhile, and they are primarily concerned with earning profit from their investment in cruise vessels.

In the case of Cockenzie the existence of Leith, Rosyth, Newhaven and South Queensferry present a dilemma: the existing facilities serve the needs of a large portion of the cruise sector and while the level of service and quality of the passenger experience could be higher in a purpose built facility at Cockenzie, that is a marginal improvement for those cruise operators. Meanwhile the other portion of the cruise

sector that would benefit (operators of larger vessels) don't call at Edinburgh at the moment so perhaps don't appreciate the benefit a new facility at Cockenzie could bring.

The case for Cockenzie could be greater if:

- One of the existing cruise facilities could no longer be used, and/or*
- Another type of marine traffic found a use for a facility at Cockenzie, ideally during the winter months*

- 3.8 Prestonpans Community Council have contacted the Council seeking update on progress since the publication of the AECOM report, and in recent communication have stated their desire to see the creation of a steering group or Development Company to “build on what has already been established in the council AECOM report, the positive feedback from Scottish Government and more importantly take the initiative forward to a stage that the Council could hit the ground running once NPF4 is published”.
- 3.9 It is true that we have had positive engagements with Scottish Government civil servants in relation to our wider candidate national development proposal; however, as expected, civil servants did not indicate what policy position Scottish Ministers may take in respect of the future of this area, including support or otherwise for any particular uses at the Cockenzie site. Scottish Ministers would likely wish to consider the future of the site in light of their ambitions and opportunities across all of Scotland. Whether the candidate proposal including the Cockenzie site has merit as a National Development site, therefore, and for what uses, will firstly need to be considered by Scottish Ministers in a national context.
- 3.10 The Council's position currently remains that it wishes to continue engagement with Scottish Government until the publication of NPF4 and in parallel consider the wider opportunities that will arise for the site, assuming there is more flexibility in the planning designation of the site flowing from NPF4. The engagement of AECOM in 2019 was to produce a high-level report on the feasibility of a cruise/port-related facility at Cockenzie to inform that process. However, it was recognised at the time that there would be considerable expense involved in undertaking any further site investigation works to inform the process further.
- 3.11 At this stage, the suggestion to form a steering group/development company in advance of the outcome of National Planning Framework 4 to co-ordinate promotion and delivery of development at the Cockenzie site could result in an abortive use of scarce resources, raise potentially unrealistic or undeliverable expectations from a number of key stakeholder groups, and is therefore not recommended.
- 3.12 Nonetheless, there continues to be significant interest in the Cockenzie site as a whole, not least the area around the existing Scottish Power substation which offers a National Grid connection opportunity to electricity generators or energy storage companies which meet the requirements of

the existing NPF3 planning designation, but also in the former station footprint to the north of Edinburgh Road and the former coal yard to the south.

- 3.13 The Council continues to engage with many of these interests, whether they are currently policy compliant or not. The conversations are commercially sensitive and generally are subject to confidentiality or non-disclosure agreements. An update report on these interests is included on the agenda for consideration in private session. It is worthy of note that policy-compliant interests, so far energy related and generally not promoting substantial employment, are not being offered land where the Council sees optimum wider economic benefit and jobs if NPF4 allows it, i.e. the former station site and the former coal yard site.
- 3.14 A community group recently put forward an idea for the former station footprint, the creation of a 360 Centre, the draft vision statement for which is included within this report as Appendix 2. While recognising this idea is at a very early stage, the promoters put this forward as an initiative that could be taken forward by the community, East Lothian Council, Scottish Government, the private sector, academic organisations and others in a partnership approach; the aim is to see the creation of a facility that looks back to the heritage of the area, but also forward thus embracing the world of today and the future. This is promoted as a facility that could attract thousands of visitors annually and provide 200 jobs in the initial stages. The promoters recognise that the financial viability of such a scheme must be determined at an early stage, and have sought a contribution from the Council toward an initial feasibility study. A meeting with the community group and Council officers is scheduled.
- 3.15 Clearly linking all of the above is the development process for NPF4. The latest step in this is the publication of the 'NPF4 Position Statement' on 26 November 2020. Responses to the Position Statement were requested by 19 February 2021. However, given that there was insufficient time to prepare a response for the December 2020 meeting of the Council, and the deadline falls before this meeting of the Council, a short extension to the 24 February has been agreed with the Scottish Government's Planning and Architecture Division. This will enable the Council to take a view on a response, a draft of which is suggested at Appendix 3 of this report.
- 3.16 The NPF4 Position Statement draws on suggestions from the earlier 'NPF4 Call for Ideas' engagement (which the Council responded to in April 2021). It puts forward the high level direction of travel for NPF4 themes: planning for 'Net-Zero Emissions', 'Resilient Communities', 'A Well-being Economy' and 'Better, Greener Places'. Importantly, there is considerable resonance between the emerging NPF4 themes and those of the Council's candidate National Development proposal, as expressed within its earlier response to the 'NPF4 Call for Ideas', and as described and illustrated its consultation draft ClimateEvolution Vision and Action Plan, approved for consultation in May 2020 under COVID-19 Emergency Recess arrangements.

- 3.17 The NPF4 Position Statement does not express a preference for candidate National Development areas at this stage, but notes that some of those suggestions align with one or more of the emerging NPF4 themes. A decision on the Finalised ClimatEvolution Vision and Action Plan, which is being developed in consultation with technical stakeholders, communities and the public, is targeted for April 2020. Following any decision on the ClimatEvolution Vision the Council may choose to share it with Scottish Government at that point.
- 3.18 In the timescales and circumstances before the Council now, it would seem prudent to offer a high level response to the NPF4 Position Statement at this stage, pointing out how our National Development proposal aligns, in broad terms, with the emerging NPF4 themes. Additionally, as was the case with the earlier 'Call for Ideas' response on NPF4, a joint response with landowners at Blindwells to the Position Statement would underscore our ongoing collaboration and is therefore also recommended. Those landowners have agreed to endorse the draft response suggested in Appendix 3.
- 3.19 Council officers have met with the chairs of the Community Council's within the Preston Seton and Gosford Ward along with the Chair of the Area Partnership and discussed community engagement with them moving forward. Whilst COVID-19 has impacted substantially here, it is important that regular engagement with community leaders is in place. The Cockenzie Community Forum has not met since COVID-19 and we need to consider whether it is now the right engagement forum given the much wider nature of proposals. The cross-party group of Elected Members and officers will also oversee the development of a communications plan to engage much more broadly given the significance of the proposals to East Lothian as a whole and indeed to the wider region. The plan will be developed to take us through the publication of NPF4 and beyond.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) will form part of the Development Plan there will be significant policy implications from its content. Continuing engagement with Scottish Government around the development of the NPF4 project proposal may have direct policy implications for the future of the Cockenzie site, including any cruise/port-related component, as well as potentially the same in respect of the wider area.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report at this stage does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial - No further costs at this stage. Ongoing planned work is contained within approved Capital and Revenue budgets.
- 6.2 Personnel - None
- 6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Members Library Report 55/20, 26/05/20. Cockenzie Power Station Site: High level Optioneering Study into the creation of a Cruise/Port-related Facility ([here](#)).
- 7.2 Report to East Lothian Council by Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services) February 2020 - Development Planning: National Planning Framework 4/Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plan ([here](#))
- 7.3 Member's Library Report 50/20 26/05/20. Full Response to National Planning Framework 4 Consultation ([here](#))
- 7.4 Member's Library Report 57/20, 26/05/20. Draft Climate Evolution Vision & Action Programme for Consultation ([here](#)) – COVID_19 Emergency Recess Report

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Cockenzie Cruise Berth

Forecast Update January 2021

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1. Introduction

1.1 Previous Work

In January 2020 AECOM delivered a high-level optioneering study on the viability of converting the former Cockenzie Power Station jetty and power station site into a facility for cruise vessels. That study included an assessment of the market for such a facility, a basic financial model to estimate payback period, and a calculation of economic benefit from the scheme. That study found the payback period for such a project would be at least 15 years for the initial capital cost without taking account of finance costs or the time value of money. All of this work was undertaken prior to the Coronavirus pandemic which has had a significant impact on the cruise sector. AECOM have been asked to revisit the market review, basic financial model and calculation of economic benefit and provide an update on these aspects of the assessment.

In the original assessment five design scenarios (A to E) were developed. All design scenarios except C could have their capital costs recovered within 25 years¹. These results are very sensitive to assumptions regarding the:

- Extent and cost of dredging, and;
- Operating surplus that a port operator can achieve, which in turn is sensitive to the tariff the cruise market can bear for calling in the Firth of Forth, and the operating costs incurred by the port operator.

The economic benefit of additional passenger and crew spending amounted to approximately £5.9 m in year 1 rising year on year to reach £27.8 m by year 25 for scenarios that allow turnarounds at Cockenzie. This does not include the economic benefit from vessel operations.

Design scenario B appeared to be the most attractive from the point of view of both payback period and economic benefit.

Table 1-1 Results of the Original Assessment (January 2020) for Design Scenarios A to E

Design Scenario	Options Included	Tidal Restrictions?	Transit or Turnaround Calls	Allows Berth Sharing?	Cost (£ m)	Payback Period (years)	Economic Payback Over 25 years (£m) versus Do Nothing
A	Berth design '1C'	Yes	Transit only	No	£44.30	20	£219
B	Berth design '1C' + continuous quay deck and basic onshore facilities	Yes	Transit and Turnaround	Yes	£56.30	15	£532
C	Berth design '1E'	No	Transit only	No	£68.50	>25	£221
D	Berth design '1E' + continuous quay deck and basic onshore facilities	No	Transit and Turnaround	Yes	£80.50	19	£533
E	Berth option '2' + continuous quay	No	Transit and Turnaround	Yes	£80.70	19	£533

¹ this excludes consideration of other fixed costs that will be incurred in operating the facility

deck and basic
onshore facilities

1.2 This Update

This update was created to provide a revised assessment revisiting the market review, basic financial model and calculation of economic benefit for Cockenzie cruise facility and report on these aspects reflecting:

- The current state of the cruise market,
- The effects of the pandemic,
- Likely impact on future investment, and
- Timescale for recovery of the industry.

The viability of the project has been re-calculated based on these findings. Information on the recovery of the cruise industry was sourced from:

- Consultation calls with cruise operators and their port agents
- Consultation calls with Forth ports, and
- Consultation calls with other ports that receive cruise vessels

Note this update was prepared and stakeholders consulted between October and December 2020, prior to the introduction of Tier 4 in much of England and the closure of many international borders to passengers from the UK that commenced on the 20th December 2020.

Figure 1.1 Location of Existing Cruise Facilities in the Firth of Forth and Aerial View of Former Power Station Site at Cockenzie (inset)



2. Commentary

2.1 Changes in the Cruise Industry

2.1.1 Prior to the Pandemic

The Firth of Forth has a healthy cruise business with around 100 calls per annum from a wide variety of operators. Some of those operators bring repeat business to the region, and that includes turnaround calls (15% of total) as well as transit calls. There are two locations where cruise vessels can berth (Leith and Rosyth) although size limitations apply, and two anchorages that can be used for larger vessels.

2.1.2 Impact of the Pandemic

As the pandemic emerged in early 2020 activities thought to enable to spread of the virus were progressively curtailed. Travel and tourism were particularly impacted and cruising largely halted around March/April 2020. Cruises for the remainder of 2020 were cancelled and cruise vessels laid up. Throughout Summer 2020 no cruises took place but as the rate of coronavirus infection declined proposals for resuming cruise operations were being made by cruise operators, ports, and trade associations. In October the UK Chamber of Shipping published a 'Framework for UK Cruise Operations during COVID-19' to aid operators re-starting cruise operations, albeit in a limited way. Central to the resumption of cruising is the frequent testing of passengers and crew, operating at less than full capacity to allow social distancing on board, and keeping passengers in groups or 'bubbles' when ashore.

A number of cruise vessels were withdrawn and scrapped; however, these were generally vessels that were due for replacement in the near future. It is estimated 4-5% of the global cruise vessel fleet were scrapped or put to other uses. New build vessels currently under construction have experienced very slight delays of a few months but operators still intend to bring them into service. Orders for new vessels have been deferred for at least one year but would be re-activated once a recovery is more evident.

Some operators resumed cruising on a very limited scale in November 2020 but in general most are aiming to resume operations in April 2021: the start of the 2021 cruise season. As well as operating at reduced capacity cruises in 2021 will generally feature more limited itineraries cruising mainly in one country, perhaps visiting only one other country to more easily manage the risks of encountering local lock downs or the need to repatriate passengers unexpectedly. Some operators are aiming to increase the complexity of their cruises and the capacity they operate at gradually throughout the year with the aim of commencing the 2022 cruise season in April 2022 with operations close to pre-pandemic cruising. These aims rely heavily on vaccination being successful and relatively widespread, or other measures to suppress the pandemic being successful.

2.1.3 Recovery Period

Discussion with cruise operators, their service providers and ports reveal there remains strong demand for cruising. Cruise operators contacted had no difficulty selling places on the cruises they are offering in 2021 and into 2022, and while discounting has occurred for the beginning of the 2021 season, they report income per passenger-night for their later 2021 bookings equal to that achieved in 2019. This reflects the high degree of repeat custom cruise operators are able to attract, and low sensitivity to economic cycles for the majority of their passengers who typically have stable income streams such as pensions.

The general consensus among consultees is the cruise sector will recover strongly but when this will occur is highly dependent on managing the risks of coronavirus through successful vaccination programmes or other measures. Operator's believe that once passengers feel comfortable with the residual risk of cruising now that coronavirus is present (and always will be), they will return to cruising. Estimates of how long it will take the cruise industry to return to 2019 levels of activity and resume its pre-pandemic growth trajectory vary from 2 to 5 years.

The recovery period is likely to feature the following differences compared to pre-pandemic cruising:

- Smaller cruise ships will account for a greater proportion of cruising because they are more attractive to passengers and easier to manage in relation to coronavirus concerns
- Regional cruising with simpler itineraries will feature more heavily

- While there may be downward pressure on port tariffs from cruise operators due to the reduced capacity they are operating at, this is not expected to be significant or long lasting
- Passenger spending ashore will be somewhat reduced because passengers need to remain in 'bubbles' when ashore, reducing the potential for visiting retailers, restaurants etc.

3. Implications for Cockenzie

3.1 Input Variables

3.1.1 Impact of the Pandemic

The original assessment of Cockenzie cruise facility considered the following variables which influence viability:

- Demand Projection
 - Annual growth assumptions for number of cruise calls per year
 - Increase in average length of cruise vessels
 - Increase in the average number of passengers per metre of cruise vessel
 - Change in proportion of turnaround calls
- Revenue Projection
 - Estimated surplus:
 - Per vessel metre for transit calls
 - Per vessel metre for turnaround calls
 - Per passenger for transit calls
 - Per passenger for turnaround calls
 - Per item of baggage for turnaround calls
- Economic Benefit
 - Assumed economic impact of passenger and crew spending:
 - Direct Spend for transit calls
 - Direct Spend for turnaround calls
 - Total value added (direct spend + indirect + induced) for transit calls
 - Total value added (direct spend + indirect + induced) for turnaround calls

There is no scientific way these values can be adjusted in anticipation of the recovery of the cruise industry following the pandemic. Instead changes have been assumed that reflect the consensus of opinion obtained from stakeholders as follows:

Table 3-1 Changes to Input Variables to Reflect Pandemic Impacts

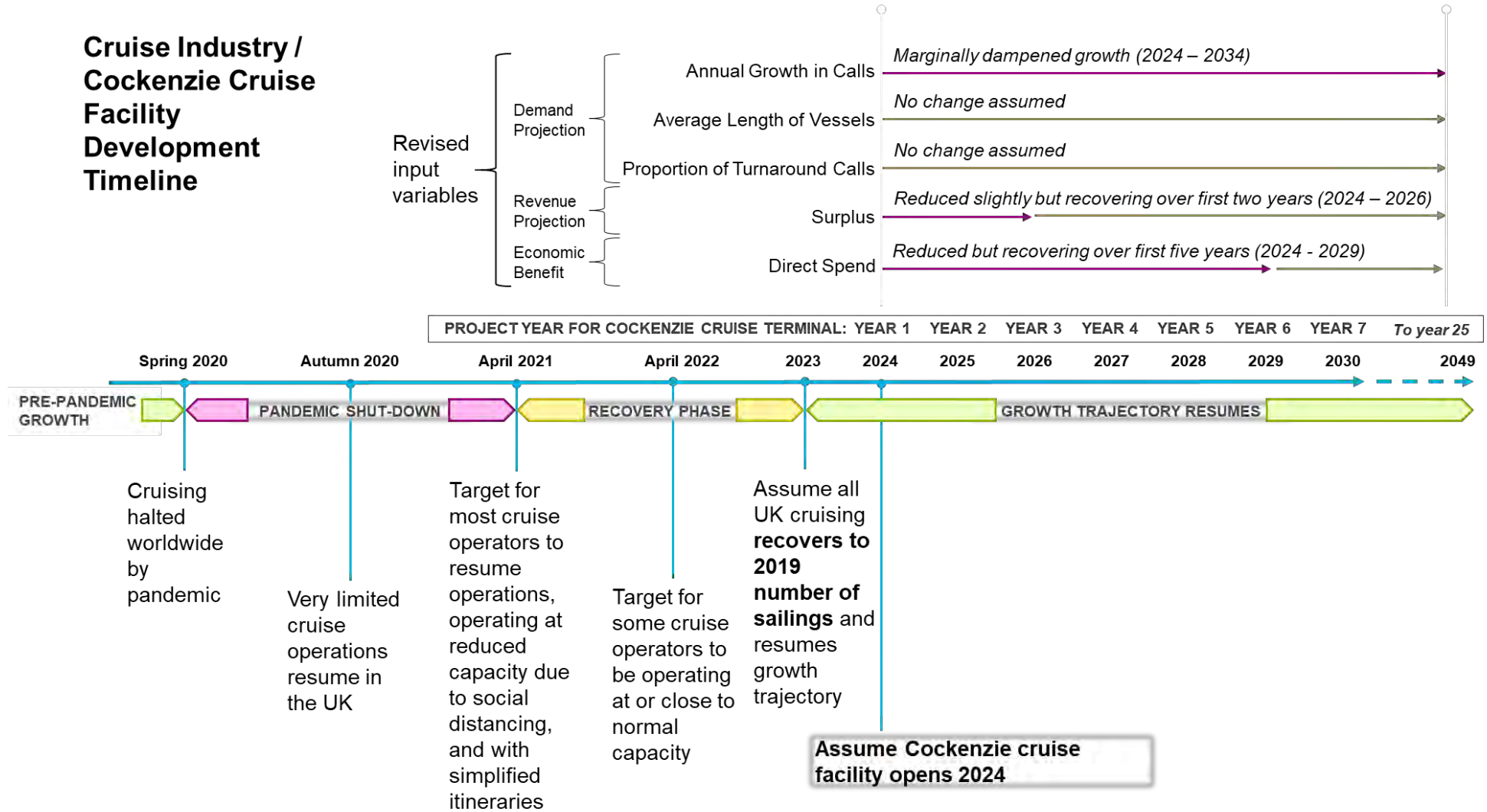
Variable	Change for Revised Assessment
DEMAND PROJECTION	
Annual growth assumptions for number of cruise calls per year	Cruise activity assumed to return to 2019 levels in 2023. Growth rebased to commence in 2024, dampened in the short term compared with the original assessment. See Table 3-2.
Increase in average length of cruise vessels	No change assumed because fleet replacement would appear to be largely unaffected by the pandemic and by 2023 the effects of vessel scrapping and delays to the building of new vessels experienced in 2020, and the preference for operating smaller vessels on simpler itineraries is assumed to have ended
Increase in the average number of passengers per metre of cruise vessel	Unchanged as this is driven by the assumption on the average length of cruise vessels
Change in proportion of turnaround calls	No change assumed as there was no evidence this has been affected
REVENUE PROJECTION (estimated surplus)	
Per vessel metre for transit calls	
Per vessel metre for turnaround calls	
Per passenger for transit calls	A reduction of 10% in 2024, 5% in 2025 and no change from 2026 onwards. See Table 3-3.
Per passenger for turnaround calls	
Per item of baggage for turnaround calls	
ECONOMIC BENEFIT (assumed economic impact of passenger and crew spending)	
Direct Spend for transit calls	A reduction of 25% for 2024, diminishing by 5% over a five year period so that by year 6 there is no longer a reduction. See Table 3-4.
Direct Spend for turnaround calls	
Total value added (direct spend + indirect + induced) for transit calls	Reduced in proportion to direct spend because the total value added is driven by direct spend and a multiplier, the multiplier is assumed to remain constant as there is no evidence it will change.
Total value added (direct spend + indirect + induced) for turnaround calls	

The variables that are being changed affect the overall level of cruise activity and spending in the Firth of Forth. Because there is no change to the proportion of turnaround calls this revised assessment will not change the relative viability of any of the design scenarios.

The original assessment assumed both for simplicity and to be conservative, that year 1 of the project lifespan applies growth rates or other changes to 2019 values for the number of calls, number of passengers, passenger spend and so on. Applying the same logic, it is assumed that the facility will open in 2024 in the revised assessment, therefore year 1 builds on the number of calls and so on in 2023 – the year cruise activity is assumed to return to 2019 levels.

A summary of how these variables reflect the impact of the pandemic and development of the cruise facility is presented in Figure 3.1

Figure 3.1 Summary of Events Impacting the Cruise Industry in the UK



3.1.2 Number of Cruise Calls in the Firth of Forth

The growth rate is assumed to be lower in first three years reflecting a slow recovery (3% versus 8%), then accelerating to 6% as latent demand is realised as confidence in cruising and coronavirus management increases. After ten years long term growth rates are unchanged.

Table 3-2 Revised Annual Growth Rate Assumptions

Growth Rates	Growth Rates per annum	Growth Rates per annum
	ORIGINAL	REVISED
Years 1 to 3 (2024 – 2026)	8%	3%
Years 4 to 10 (2027 – 2033)	5%	6%
Years 11 to end (2034 – 2049)	2%	2%

3.1.3 Revenue

Reduced by 10% in year 1, by 5% in year 2, but unchanged there after reflecting limited, short term downward pressure on port tariffs from cruise operators. The effect is limited because in most cases cruise operators have only a small degree of influence on port tariffs as they are seldom the sole users of berths at UK ports (noting exceptions such as dedicated cruise facilities like Southampton).

Table 3-3 Revised Surplus Assumptions

Surplus Type		Transit	Turnaround		Transit	Turnaround
		ORIGINAL	ORIGINAL		REVISED	REVISED
Per m of vessel	Applied to all years	£28.00	£28.00	Year 1 (2024) 90% of original	£25.20	£25.20
Per passenger		£7.00	£7.00		£6.30	£6.30
Baggage (per passenger)		n/a	£3.15		n/a	£2.84
			Per m of vessel	Year 2 (2025) 95% of original	£26.60	£26.60
			Per passenger		£6.65	£6.65
			Baggage (per passenger)		n/a	£2.99
			Per m of vessel	Year 3 on wards (2026 – 2049) 100% of original	£28.00	£28.00
			Per passenger		£7.00	£7.00
			Baggage (per passenger)		n/a	£3.15

3.1.4 Economic Benefit

Reduced by 25% in Year 1 but diminishing over five years so there is no reduction by year 6. This reflects the impact of shore excursions operating as bubbles, reducing the opportunity for spending by passengers. Also, to a limited extent some shore side spending may not occur where businesses no longer exist due to the economic effects of the pandemic e.g. cafes and shops that were heavily dependent on tourist spending going out of business. Over the course of five years the need for bubbles is expected to decrease, and a general economic recovery may increase the number of tourist-oriented business passengers may spend money at.

Table 3-4 Revised Economic Benefit Assumptions

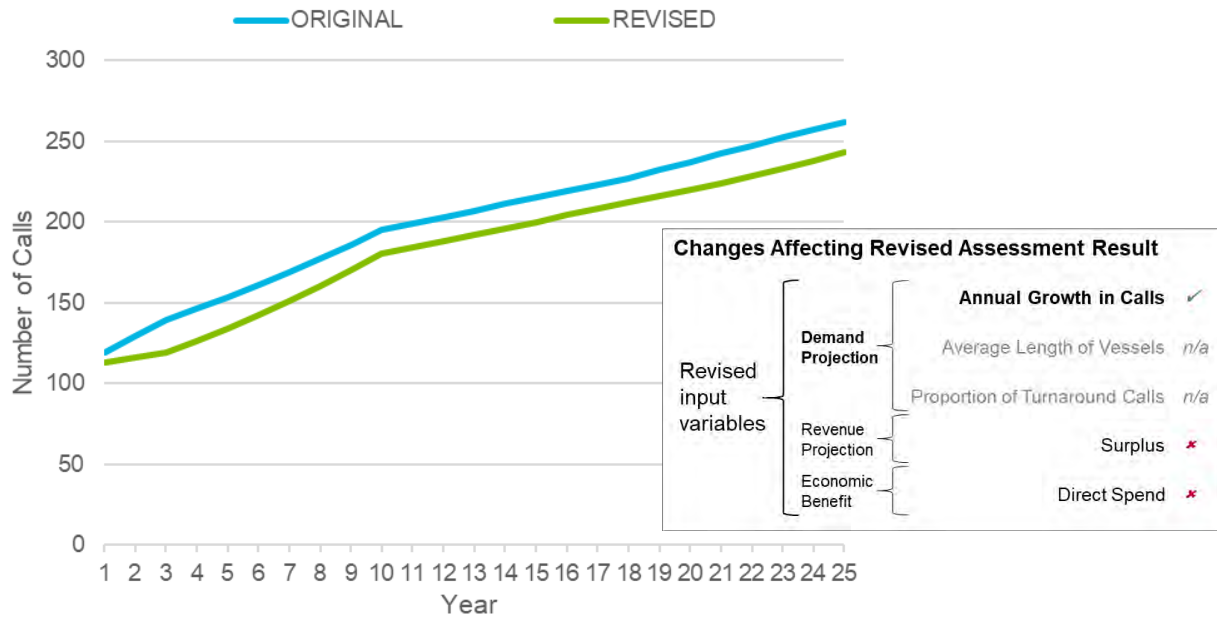
Economic benefit per passenger		Transit	Turnaround		Transit	Turnaround
		ORIGINAL	ORIGINAL		REVISED	REVISED
Direct spend	Applied to all years	£51.00	£88.00	Year 1 (2024)	£38.25	£66.00
Total value added (direct spend + indirect + induced)		£106.00	£175.00	75% of original	79.50	131.25
		Direct spend		Year 2 (2025)	£40.80	70.40
		Total value added (direct spend + indirect + induced)		80% of original	84.80	140.00
		Direct spend		Year 3 (2026)	£43.35	£74.80
		Total value added (direct spend + indirect + induced)		85% of original	90.10	148.75
		Direct spend		Year 4 (2027)	£45.90	£79.20
		Total value added (direct spend + indirect + induced)		90% of original	95.40	157.50
		Direct spend		Year 5 (2028)	£48.45	£83.60
		Total value added (direct spend + indirect + induced)		95% of original	100.70	166.25
		Direct spend		Year 6 onwards	51.00	88.00
		Total value added (direct spend + indirect + induced)		(2029 - 2049)	106.00	175.00
				100% of original		

3.2 Outputs

This section compares the outputs of the revised assessment with the original assessment completed in January 2020. The comparison reveals the change to viability caused by the pandemic. The comparisons are both based on year 1 of the project which were 2020 in the original assessment and 2024 in the revised assessment. Note both assessments assume the same capital cost, therefore inflation in building costs has not been considered, but neither has inflation been applied to revenues or economic benefit therefore the results are comparable as they are both based on nominal costs and income.

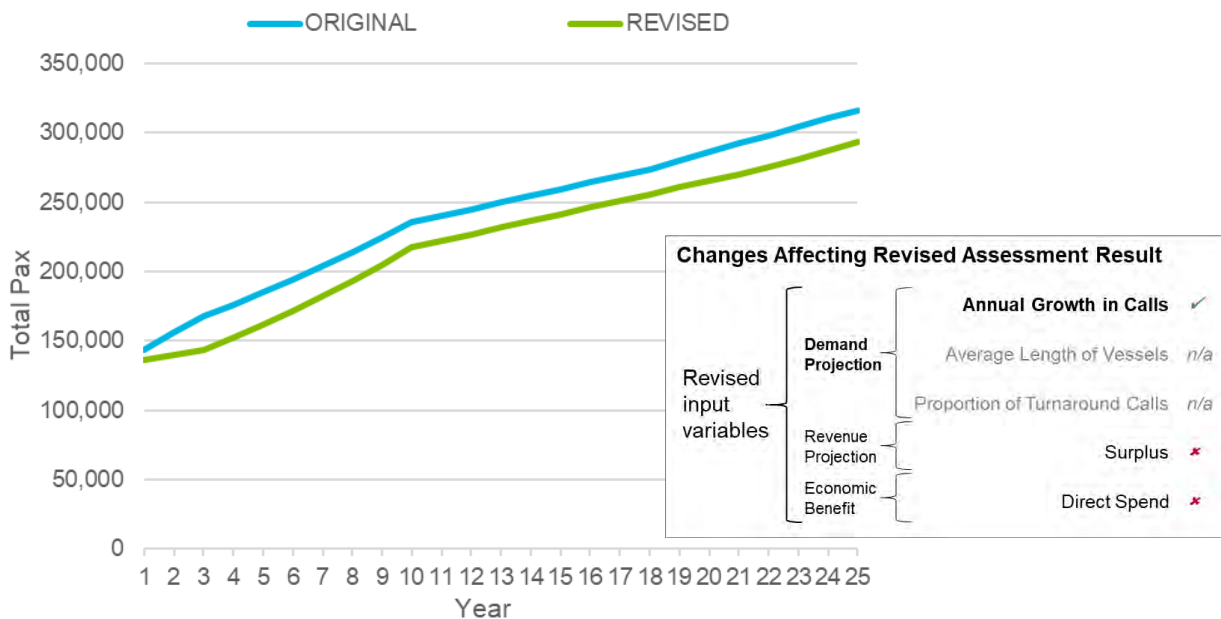
Based on the foregoing assumptions the growth in cruise calls to the Forth of Firth is expected to recover but will be deferred by the effects of the pandemic.

Figure 3.2. Comparison of Number of Cruise Calls in the Firth of Forth under the ‘Do Nothing’ Scenario



Because the growth in cruise vessel length is assumed to be unchanged by the pandemic, the total number of passengers cruising in the Firth of Forth is expected to follow the same trend as the number of vessel calls.

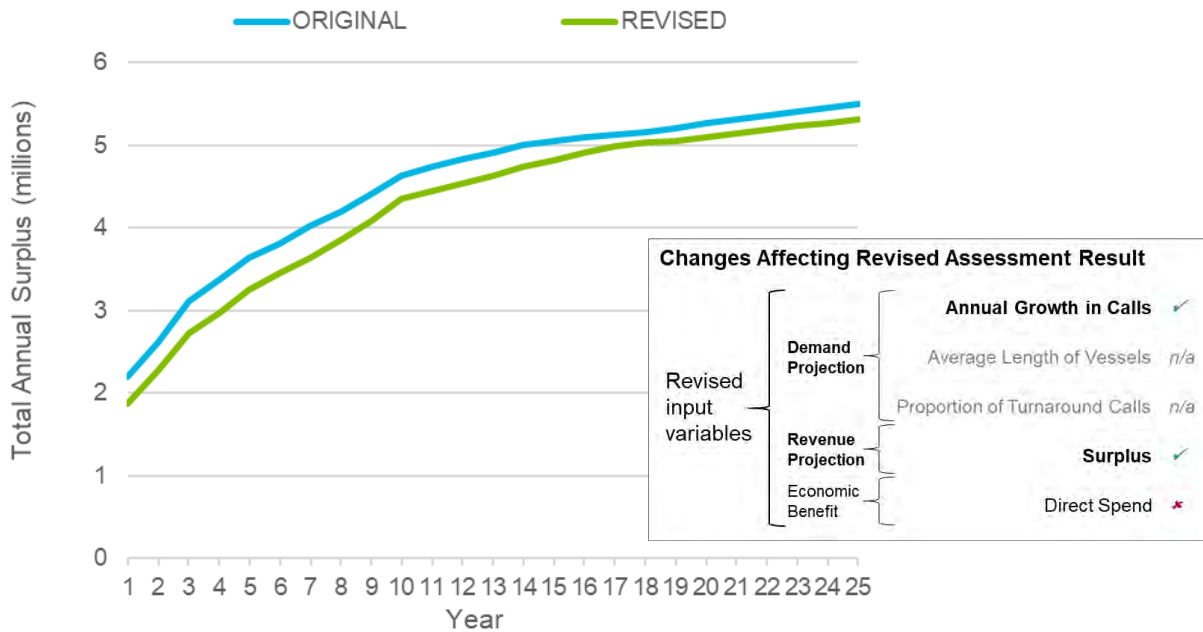
Figure 3.3. Comparison of Number of Cruise Passengers in the Firth of Forth under the ‘Do Nothing’ Scenario



For comparison of revenue and economic benefit the most promising design scenario (scenario B) has been used.

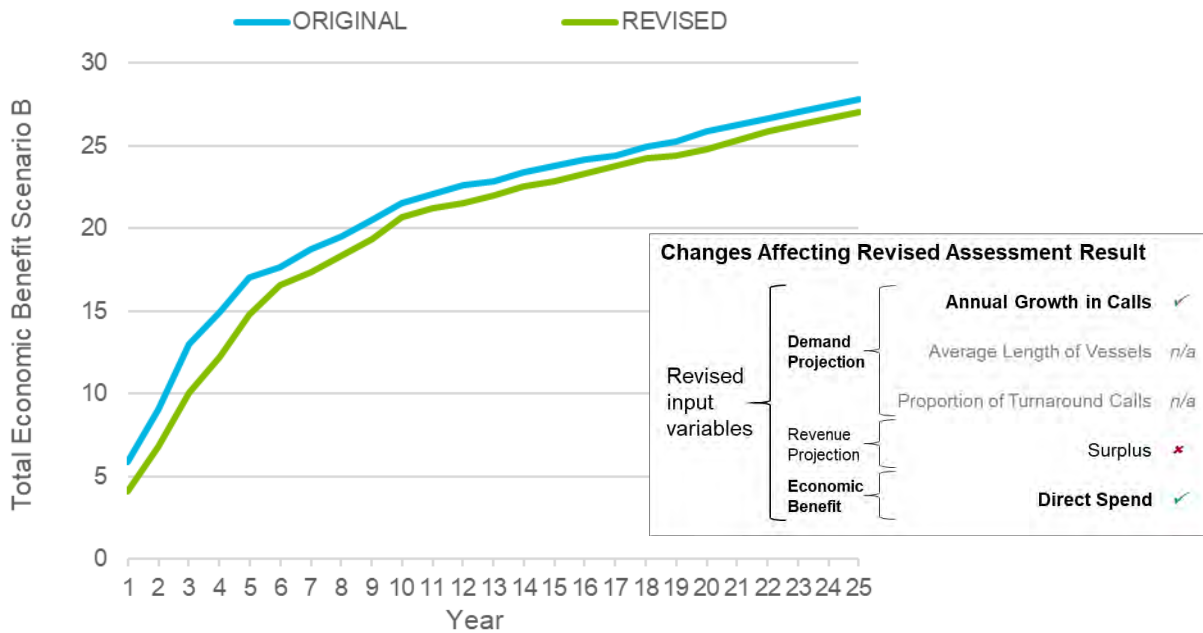
The total revenue generated for Scenario B lags behind that of the original assessment, extending the payback period marginally (by one year).

Figure 3.4. Surplus Generated by Calls at Cockenzie under Scenario B (Millions of Pounds)



The economic benefit for Scenario B versus Do Nothing lags behind that of the original by a small margin.

Figure 3.5. Comparison of Economic Benefit of Scenario B Compared to Do Nothing Scenario (Millions of Pounds)



3.3 Implications for Developing Cockenzie as a Cruise Facility

Due to the slower initial growth in number of cruise calls, and the slight reduction in revenue during the first two years, the payback period for all design scenarios is extended marginally by one year in all cases.

Table 3-5 Updated Payback Period of Different Design Scenarios

Design Scenario	Options Included	Transit or Turnaround Calls	Allows Berth Sharing?	Cost (£ m)	Payback Period (years)	Payback Period (years)
					ORIGINAL	REVISED
A	1C	Transit only	No	£44.30	20	21
B	1C + continuous quay deck and basic onshore facilities	Transit and Turnaround	Yes	£56.30	15	16
C	1E	Transit only	No	£68.50	> 25 years	> 25 years
D	1E + continuous quay deck and basic onshore facilities	Transit and Turnaround	Yes	£80.50	19	20
E	2 + continuous quay deck and basic onshore facilities	Transit and Turnaround	Yes	£80.70	19	20

Similarly economic benefit, affected by the reduction in shore spending by passengers due to the need for them to remain in bubbles, is marginally reduced for all design scenarios.

Table 3-6 Updated Economic Benefit from Crew and Passenger Spending Arising from Cockenzie

Design Scenario	Years	Economic Benefit from Crew and Passenger Spending all of Firth of Forth Cruising (millions)		Economic Benefit from Cockenzie versus Do Nothing (millions)	
		ORIGINAL	REVISED	ORIGINAL	REVISED
A	1 - 25	£964	£887	£219	£217
B	1 - 25	£1,277	£1,173	£532	£502
C	1 - 25	£966	£889	£221	£218
D	1 - 25	£1,278	£1,177	£533	£506
E	1 - 25	£1,278	£1,177	£533	£506

4. Conclusions

4.1 Impacts of the Pandemic

The pandemic severely impacted the cruise industry in 2020. It is expected to recover strongly once effective means of suppressing coronavirus are found but it remains uncertain how long that will take. Using a reasonably conservative interpretation of stakeholder views of when the industry will be restored to 2019 levels of operation and growth, this assessment has found the viability of Cockenzie cruise facility is likely to be lower, albeit not to a significant degree.

The direct financial impact is relatively minor, extending the payback period by approximately one year. The impact on economic benefit is similarly marginal. These results are of course highly variable due to the uncertainty of how soon the effects of coronavirus can be adequately suppressed. However, the fundamentals that made the cruise industry viable and a strong growth industry have not changed, and demand for cruising remains strong, albeit temporarily suspended due to the pandemic.

Detailed design of Cockenzie cruise facility will need to include spaces for testing passengers, isolating positive cases, and facilitate the hospitalisation or repatriation of passengers who test positive.

4.2 The Case for Cockenzie

For most ports cruise traffic is a marginal business. Dedicated cruise facilities in the UK have only come about where a large cruise operator is willing to make a commitment in terms of utilisation, e.g. Southampton Cruise Terminal developed by ABP.

Port operators review the case for investing in facilities to either grow or at least maintain their level of cruise traffic periodically but the pandemic has made that a very low priority. However, once the recovery has taken place there is nothing to suggest the dynamics of investing in cruise facilities would be any different to prior to the pandemic.

The cruise operators contacted were asked if they would ever consider investing in cruise terminals generally, possibly through a consortium of non-competing cruise lines (serving different market segments) but this is not something they perceive as worthwhile. From the cruise operator's point of view there are hundreds of ports they call at each year so investing in any one port is not worthwhile, and they are primarily concerned with earning profit from their investment in cruise vessels.

In the case of Cockenzie the existence of Leith, Rosyth, Newhaven and South Queensferry present a dilemma: the existing facilities serve the needs of a large portion of the cruise sector and while the level of service and quality of the passenger experience could be higher in a purpose built facility at Cockenzie, that is a marginal improvement for those cruise operators. Meanwhile the other portion of the cruise sector that would benefit (operators of larger vessels) don't call at Edinburgh at the moment so perhaps don't appreciate the benefit a new facility at Cockenzie could bring.

The case for Cockenzie could be greater if:

- One of the existing cruise facilities could no longer be used, and/or
- Another type of marine traffic found a use for a facility at Cockenzie, ideally during the winter months.

Appendix A – Consultees

Ports

- Forth Ports
- Portsmouth International Port

Cruise operators

- Fred Olsen
- Viking

Other

- Intercruises (providers of port agency and shoreside services to cruise operators)

Appendix B – Summary of Consultation Findings

Recovery Period

- Stakeholders expect recovery to begin early to mid-2021 led by smaller ships operating on regional cruises at reduced capacity, increasing capacity as progress with vaccination/suppression of coronavirus improves with some operators hoping to reach full capacity by April 2022 for the 2022 cruise season.
- Most cruises will sail at 50% capacity to accommodate social distancing
- Cruise operators are still able to sell cruises
- Cruising has a loyal customer base and cruises can be marketed as a very safe holiday option because they effectively keep passengers in bubbles both onboard and when ashore
- Some cruise operator's target demographics are 'recession proof' because their income is not closely linked to GDP because they have stable pension incomes
- Some cruise operators are able to achieve the same income per passenger-night for their later 2021 bookings as they achieved in 2019 meaning they have not had to cut cruise fares for a prolonged period to entice passengers back to cruising, however the cruise operator's income remains lower while sailing at reduced capacity due to social distancing.
- Some cruise operators were bankrupt by the pandemic (most notably in the UK, CMV), the fate of individual cruise lines was heavily influenced by the amount of debt they needed to service
- Some people have left the cruise industry
- Scenic cruises may be a stronger proposition during the recovery period
- More sea days feature in cruise schedules during recovery
- Recovery period likely to see a very limited American market for cruising in Scotland, but the European market will be better especially German tourists
- Fly cruises are more difficult to operate at the moment because of the problem of what to do with someone who tests positive and then can't be flown home
- The UK is well positioned for foreign cruise operators to call as they can source so many passengers here
- UK cruise operators initial focus is on UK cruising plus visiting one other country, similarly for foreign lines e.g. German cruise operators will do Germany plus the UK

Impact on growth rates

- Expect it could take up to five years for the industry to recover to 2019 levels, although some operators expect to resume their growth trajectory as early as 2022 subject to vaccination and other virus suppression measures being successful.
- No view on growth rates thereafter, depends on length and severity of any pandemic-triggered recession, however much of the traditional cruise demographic are pensioners whose income is less sensitive to market shocks

Impact on Vessel Length Distribution Assumptions

- 4-5% of world's cruise fleet has been scrapped or sold on for other uses
- New vessels that were under construction are being used to replace scrapped or sold vessels
- Larger operators are deferring investment in new ships by at least one year
- Small vessels are likely to be more successful in the recovery period

Impact on Turnaround Calls Assumptions

- During the recovery period cruise itineraries are expected to be shorter which implies there may be more turnarounds, however turnarounds will take longer during the pandemic due to the need to sanitise the vessel. No change in the long term proportion of turnaround calls because the trend of shorter cruises may not last beyond the recovery period

Impact on Surplus Assumptions

- Cruise operators still want deep water access to Edinburgh, the city and region's attractiveness to cruise operators and their passengers has not diminished
- A facility like Cockenzie is difficult to justify purely for cruise calls as they are a marginal business and do not have contracts committing cruise operators to a minimum level of usage (noting exceptions such as Southampton), port operators review the feasibility of a dedicated facility periodically but the pandemic has made that option a very low priority.
- Ports expect downward pressure on port tariffs from cruise operators, however this will be limited because of the alternative uses berths can be put to where cruise is a marginal business, and to date this trend has not yet materialised in 2021 bookings

Impact on Economic Benefit Assumptions

- Cruise operators now have an increased focus on encouraging onboard spending by passengers
- Passengers staying in bubbles will reduce spending ashore as there is less opportunity for passengers to wander independently and make impulse purchases
- Passenger spend ashore is likely to be more concentrated e.g. at tourist attractions visited in a bubble, and less as shops and restaurants

Other

- Cruise terminals will need spaces to test passengers, isolate positive cases, and facilitate the hospitalisation or repatriation of passengers who test positive; this is likely to be an ongoing requirement for years to come.

The 360 Centre Vision Statement

*The right place
The right idea
The right time*



Between the communities of Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Port Seton, beside the Greenhills, is a site which sits right on the edge of the Forth; a post-industrial area with an old pier stretching out into the sea and wonderful uninterrupted views towards Arthurs Seat and Edinburgh Castle and across to the Fife coastline. It sits within a beautiful green space, the John Muir Way running along the edge by the sea, and the community orchard across the road to the south.

For five years, since Cockenzie Power Station was demolished and the iconic chimneys came down, the search has been on to find the right use for this unique piece of land.



Following the decline of many local industries, and the loss of thousands of jobs across the area in the preceding decades, the demolition of Cockenzie Power Station in 2015 seemed to mark the end of an era. Today the empty site sits at the centre of the area with the hope that a new purpose can be found, a purpose that will unite communities, provide high quality jobs, improve educational outcomes, and meet local ambition.

The community are coming together around the concept of building a unique and ambitious centre within a rewilded area which can incorporate all of the most important aspects of the site and its heritage - the beauty of the marine and natural environment, the wealth of arts and culture across the area, a proud industrial heritage, and the desire to be at the cutting edge of the technology and practice that will help address the Climate and Ecological Emergency – a centre which has the environment, and our changing climate at its heart.

It's a 360° vision that could be accommodated on this site within a major new centre – the 360 Centre – that would have local, national, and international importance. Our centre would look **outwards** at the marine environment – a key indicator of climate change; **downwards** towards the industrial heritage of the mines which stretch out under the Forth but are now themselves being explored to provide much needed clean green geothermal energy; **upwards** to the sky – where the carbon we've released is warming the planet; **around** at the rich tradition of arts, culture, and innovation along our coast - the murals and tapestries, the artists and musicians who live in the communities as well as **back** to where we have come from – to the importance of the industrial heritage which has shaped both the communities and the land over the past hundreds of years and finally, **forwards** towards a vision of the future for the next generations to come.

Within the centre would be cutting edge immersive exhibitions, the use of digital and virtual reality seen to its full potential, explanations of the importance of renewable energy, sunset viewing platforms, domed digital planetariums, lecture theatres doubling as arts and music venues, arts and science combined with the sea on the doorstep making full use of the unique and glorious natural environment of the surrounding area. It would act as an interpretation centre for neighbouring renewable energy initiatives as well as a centre for education, skills training and support for industries across Scotland seeking to address the Climate Change agenda and become more carbon neutral.

The pier itself could form a part of the art installation and would be a real draw for visitors, with ferries and boats powered by green energy linking the site to the capital. This could also provide the opportunity to reinstate links with Fife and East Lothian's coastal towns and take visitors out on the Forth for wildlife and heritage cruises.

The green space between these communities is becoming increasingly important to people as housing developments continue apace across the area. The land around the 360 centre would be landscaped to become an integrated part of the whole concept and part of the attraction itself – with grasslands and water parks interspersed with walkways, highlighting the natural environment and providing local communities and visitors with a beautiful space in keeping with the aims and objectives of the 360 Centre.

There are a wide range of nesting birds on the site currently and developing the right habitats around the site would help to protect and increase these numbers. Native planting could also be undertaken, suitable for a coastal site, increasing the biodiversity as well as providing opportunities to develop areas for bird watching and marine watching facilities. The habitats around this area of coastline attract a huge number and range of species of birds and are a renowned birdwatchers paradise. The Forth attracts dolphins, porpoises and whales which have been seen in increasing numbers over the past few years, a further opportunity to attract visitors from all around the UK.

Climate Change

Nowhere in the UK or elsewhere has such a facility been created with the aim of providing an attraction with such an important educational message. On the site of a coal fired power station, powered with energy from the flooded East Lothian Coal Field, and looking directly out at the marine environment - the idea, the location and the time are absolutely right.

The opportunity to work with the Renewable Energy Industries providing an interpretation centre is one which would have considerable benefits to all involved. Many other companies are also looking at the potential to become carbon neutral and there will be many more in the coming years. This centre could provide the support and information on climate change right across industrial sectors.

Local Aspirations

Our local communities are proud of their industrial heritage and keen to see employment opportunities come to the area. But they also want to see the amenity of the area being maximised and the beauty of the green space and coastline preserved. This proposal provides an opportunity to build on all three of these aspirations.

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH – THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

This initiative will only be possible with a forward-looking partnership approach. The community will work closely with local groups and organisations, community councils, the Local Area Partnership, East Lothian Council, Scottish Government, as well as academic partnerships, organisations with similar climate change agendas and private companies linked to the area including those who will be based on the site.

Young East Lothian

Climate change has far reaching consequences not least for the younger members of our communities. Using existing groups and creating a new group around the whole concept of the 360, the views and ideas of the younger generation are being sought and they will be very much involved in the proposals. They would take an active part in the research, development and delivery of this project. They are seen as key stakeholders. We feel it is vitally important that the youth of our area can see the legacy of the industrial heritage taken forward in such a positive way and to be able to link their own place and their own communities with positive action for the future.

A social media campaign using Instagram has been identified by local youngsters as the most effective way to engage the younger community with this proposal and it is intended to take this forward in the next few weeks as ideas for the development are being collected and taken forward.

East Lothian Council

East Lothian Council are also pursuing a forward thinking and ambitious plan to put this area at the heart of the Scottish Government's national climate change agenda with a ClimatEvolution proposal currently in place which links the production of geothermal energy to be used in new housing developments in the area as well as a green agenda for travel, waterways as well as cultural activities.

We would work closely with this proposal and consultation and help to push forward the aspects which crossover with the communities aims and objectives. Currently there are no plans indicated within the ClimatEvolution for the Power Station Site, but mention has been made to include a Climate Resilience Centre within the wider area. The idea of the 360 Centre clearly fits closely with these proposals and could be seen as the delivery vehicle for many. The location of the former Power Station Site is seen as key by the 360 Centre Group with the opportunity to work collaboratively with East Lothian Council and energy companies in and around the site.

Private Companies

Initial meetings have been held with Inch Cape Wind Farm Development who currently have planning permission to build a substation on the edge of the site – with permission currently to use around one quarter of the site with their focus on wind generated renewable energy. This fits well with the community's vision for the site. They are interested in collaborating particularly with regard to interpretation of the renewable energy sector.

Other companies have also expressed interest in the site, but as part of the renewable energy sector this would be completely compatible with the aims and objectives of the 360 Centre.

Social Enterprises and Local Businesses

We would also encourage and support the creation of social enterprises around the site which are in keeping with the underlying message of climate change. The creation of coastal defences as a business in its own right has already been suggested as well as training for rope access technicians working in the wind farm sector, and there are numerous other ideas which could be taken forward to increase the employment opportunities in the area. The 360 Centre would have the potential to impact very positively on the regeneration of the surrounding businesses and encourage further investment in visitor accommodation, restaurants, cafes and local food and drink production. The beach front and car park at Prestonpans is another area which could benefit from investment and development and could be tied in with this initiative.

Academic Partnerships

Discussions have taken place with individuals from Scottish universities including Edinburgh Napier University and the University of the Highlands and Islands. While there are academic centres for research, and there are national and international collaborations around energy production and national marine and land parks – there is as yet no facility in existence for the general public to learn what Climate Change really means and to have the opportunity to learn about Climate Change – but to do so in a visionary, creative and educational way. This is an opportunity not just to display the implications of climate change – using both local, national and international examples – but to put forward mitigation measures which can be undertaken by individuals, communities and countries.

Tourism

Both existing and future tourist organisations and attractions will benefit substantially from this initiative. We have been in touch with local camp site Seton Sands to include them in the development of this proposal.

As well as a centre for the education, the centre will be part of a major art installation - a tourist attraction with a powerful message. We would anticipate creating a large inflow of visitors to the area, and based upon the numbers visiting similar facilities - the potential to attract around 500,000 visitors per year.

A Network of Attractions

Linked to other current initiatives in the local area including heritage attractions such as Preston Tower and Prestongrange Heritage Park, the 1722 Waggonway and the John Muir Way, visitors would have the opportunity to visit a network of attractions. The 360 Centre would encourage longer stays in the immediate area, and opportunities for other local facilities such as these – and also cafes, public houses and shops to benefit. Established facilities and businesses across Preston Seton and Gosford would also gain from an influx of additional visitors coming specifically to the area and a green travel network could be developed to service the range of attractions on offer.

Economic Perspective

The local economy and the creation of jobs is vitally important to our area and is a major driver for the creation of the 360 Centre.

Haven Seton Sands Holiday Village is a long-established visitor facility and caravan park to the east of Cockenzie and Port Seton which employs around 150 staff members and attracts 20,000 visitors per year. They recently invested £2.7m in a waterpark on their site which opened in 2017. They would welcome an additional attraction in the area as would all other tourist facilities in the local communities.



<https://www.facebook.com/setonsands.holiday/photos/a.781688051995401/788239664673573>

Public art has been shown to change public perceptions of places and draw in many thousands of visitors. Similar facilities which include both an art installation and visitor centre in Scotland include the Helix Centre near Falkirk with the iconic Kelpies which opened in 2014 and includes a visitor centre and café. This has been incredibly beneficial to the area providing an amazing visitor attraction and changing the whole identity of the location and the associated communities. This combination of art installation and education centre is something which the 360 Centre could do even more effectively using the Climate Change agenda which continues to grow in importance year on year.

Another successful and inspirational concept is the Eden Centre in Cornwall, built on an old chalk mine, which opened in 2001 and now employs over 400 full-time staff, 200 seasonal staff and 150 volunteers. There is also an apprenticeship programme covering a variety of careers. Around 1million people visit the centre each year.

The Eden Centre has gone global and is undertaking similar projects worldwide with innovative visitor attractions with relevance to the local areas. They recently put forward plans to site their first Scottish centre in Dundee which is at an early stage in development. While the creative vision of our project is similar to the Eden project, the aims, objectives and message of the 360 Centre is different in that it is very firmly rooted in the idea of renewable green energy and the climate change agenda, with a collaborative approach to both the development and implementation with the community at its heart.



Original Eden Project Cornwall 2001, built on a disused chalk mine



Plans for Eden North (2019) – in Morecambe



Plans for Eden Qingdao, China



Ref: <https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/grimshaw-starts-planning-for-carbon-neutral-eden-project-north>

As well as providing jobs, with the inclusion of an art-installation such as the three large scale statues of women, the 360 Centre would provide an incredible visitor attraction for the area - attracting people from all over the UK and beyond. We would hope to be able to replicate the visitor numbers of the Eden Centre but our aim is for this centre to become not just a visitor attraction, but a major learning and cultural centre of national and international importance.

The 360 Centre would hope to create around 200 jobs in the first instance with the potential to create many more as the facility develops. A training programme would be an integral part of the build project as well as the running of the centre itself. The facility could provide additional training facilities for green energy companies – both the physical and structural aspects and the wider requirements of skills development within the green energy sector. This would lead to potential job opportunities both for the local communities but also once established, as a training facility for those from further afield.



Whilst having an important function and purpose, the centre would also be built as part of a major public art installation. Statues already designed by local artist Andrew Crummy, could represent the women of our communities - the women miners from earlier years, the miner's wives, the fisherwives – but also have resonance globally as women of the world – as mother earth. They could take the iconic position once held by the Chimneys – either singly or as a pair. Or statues could sit within the site itself around a globe or dome shaped buildings.



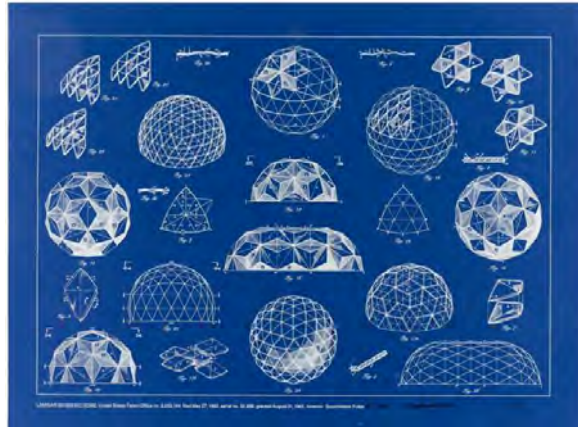
One of the statues could act as a viewing platform with visitors being able to take a lift up to the top of the statue and look out across the Forth from her eyeline.



Ref. Jo Callie website

This image above was produced by American architect Jo Callie who used the site as her final year project. Her idea was to be inspired by the need to transition post-industrial sites into the future - using the landscape and nature to create ecologically diverse site-specific area for people to enjoy as well as wild life to flourish. In this last image, the 360 could be contained in the mounds that wrap around the flooded footprint.

Alternatively the use of Buckminster Fuller's geodesic domes – strong but lightweight – would allow a building or several buildings to be built relatively easily and cheaply on the site – in an entirely environmentally friendly way. They could be built within or on top of the site – or even within a flooded area. One idea was to have a complete globe shape – to represent the earth itself. But these are all decisions which would be made by the wider community and by the constraints of cost and implementation.



Working with the ClimatEvolution proposal for East Lothian Council, we would ensure that all the aspects of the build would be undertaken with the environmental impact firmly at its heart. Indeed, the ClimatEvolution proposal provides this project with a clear route for delivery – as a community initiative in collaboration with East Lothian Council and other partners from the public and private sector. During the build itself, apprenticeships could be offered across a variety of trades.

The very real opportunity to use geothermal energy within this development would also make it more cost effective and more innovative as well as being completely tied in with the aims and objectives of the Centre itself. The opportunity to interpret the use of renewable energy both as part of this development and part of the Inch Cape Wind Farm development too could be an important aspect of the educational purpose of the centre itself.

In conclusion, what better place for a Climate Change Centre – the 360 Centre, than on an area which has been mined for almost 1000 years and the site of a coal fired Power Station and now sitting alongside a substation for renewable energy? What better way to redress the balance of our industrial past and to look forward – to look out over the ocean and provide a unique and creative way to show people what the future could hold as well as how important this place is and the importance of our place within the world itself.

Next Steps – Feasibility Study

A feasibility study would be required to ascertain if this project is viable and the potential costs involved. It would also be undertaken in conjunction with a wider community consultation process and consultation with other potential stakeholders.

Key aims and objectives:

- **Develop a centre of international importance within the field of Climate Change**
- **Create local jobs**

- **Raise the aspirations of the area**
- **Realise the strength of a community led proposal and development**
- **Create a destination – an inspirational and unique visitor attraction**
- **Create a clean and green area – and link to the East Lothian Council’s ClimatEvolution proposals – using this theme to lead all development**
- **Retain natural assets and the amenity of this special coastal site**

The 360 Centre
Draft, November 2020

24th February 2021

John McNairney
Chief Planner Scottish Government
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Dear John,

RE: RESPONSE TO NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4 POSITION STATEMENT

We write with regard to the National Planning Framework 4 Position Statement, and your call for responses on it. We would like to thank you for the short extension of time you provided to allow us to prepare this response.

Firstly, we welcome the on-going discussion around the themes and direction of travel set out within the Position Statement, as well as the ambitious intentions for future national planning strategy and policy.

In April 2020, East Lothian Council, Hargreaves and Taylor Wimpey, together with the Key Agencies and a wide range of technical stakeholders, responded to the 'NPF4 Call for Ideas', promoting exciting proposals for a fresh National Development area in East Lothian. In that response we noted that we are all collaborating on a high level vision for a ClimatEvolution Zone, which includes Blindwells New Town, the redevelopment of the former Cockenzie Power Station site, and the delivery of a destination parkland between these strategic sites and the surrounding regenerating communities.

Since then, the Council has published and consulted on a consultation draft ClimatEvolution Vision & Action Plan, from 01st June 2020 to 16th October 2020. We extended the reach of that consultation to the furthest possible extent during the pandemic by carrying out a wide range of awareness raising, consultation and engagement activity using press, webinars, media and web-based videos. The draft Vision describes and illustrates an emerging ambition for the area and how its challenges can be converted into opportunities. It is now being finalised following this extensive consultation work. The web-link to the consultation materials, including web-video, is set out at the foot of this letter. Importantly, this draft Vision is intended

to help inform plan-making, not decision taking, and provides a basis for on-going engagement on the future planning of the area.

The Council is also a partner in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. It sets a strategic context for our proposals, particularly Blindwells New Town as one of seven regionally significant strategic sites that the Scottish Government has committed to help enable the delivery of through the Deal. We want to ensure that the redevelopment of the former Cockenzie power station site is linked to these wider ambitions, to co-ordinate comprehensive proposals for a nationally significant, sustainable and inclusive development opportunity. These ambitions have been expressed within the interim Regional Spatial Strategy and are being developed further through the emerging Regional Growth Framework, a regional economic strategy, and in due course through the development of other regional plans and strategies, including the Regional Spatial Strategy and Regional Transport Strategy.

In that context, and considering timescales and circumstances, this response is a joint one from East Lothian Council, Hargreaves and Taylor Wimpy; in due course we aim to share with you the Finalised Climate Evolution Vision and Action Plan, which once adopted will be the product of wide consultation, collaboration and engagement on the future planning of the area with technical stakeholders, communities and the public. This Vision is only the start of the process, albeit an important initial step.

In the context of our comments above, this response on the NPF4 Position Statement is therefore kept to the high level observations below:

1. We note that there is significant alignment and resonance between the emerging NPF4 themes and those set out within East Lothian's proposed fresh National Development area. We see no reason to reiterate our full proposition here, since it is clear that we are all aiming to innovate through the planning system to deliver multiple benefits for people, places, the environment, climate and economy. Nonetheless, in terms of the Position Statement, we note that our proposal for a fresh National Development Area contributes to the following ambitions:
 - **Net zero emissions** – though enabling on and off shore renewable energy projects, clean hydrogen production and distribution, energy innovation zones, heat networks, asset and estate modernisation and decarbonisation, and walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure, as well as climate adaptation, mitigation and sequestration projects;
 - **Resilient communities** – through strategic and transformational regeneration initiatives, large scale mixed use development and strategic infrastructure projects, delivery of a new town, including a full range and choice of new housing and housing tenures, including affordable homes and specialist housing and other delivery models, strategic transportation and sustainable and active travel infrastructure, linked to STPR2 (Phase 1 & 2) as well as leisure, recreation, health and wellbeing facilities, and community, cultural and tourism projects and initiatives;

- **Wellbeing economy** – through increasing job density and enabling employment, business and industrial developments, energy parks, opportunities for sustainable / off-site construction and manufacturing, remote working / home working hubs, circular economy opportunities, and aquaculture, agriculture and horticultural opportunities, strategic infrastructure, including education, community and healthcare as well as skills development and training opportunities, sustainable transportation and public transport, a potential cruise port, and digital infrastructure;
 - **Better, greener places** – place-based landscape and environmental improvement and transformation projects, including nature based solutions, green, blue and natural and ecological networks, making best use of water assets and re-neutralisation, re-meandering and creation of new watercourses and water bodies, delivery of a new regional town centre and better levels of local self-containment including through 20-minute neighbourhoods, and the redevelopment of vacant, derelict and previously developed land.
2. We are really pleased to see a strong focus on the ‘Place Principle’ and on the need for collective impact to maximise benefits through collaborative working and co-ordinated action and delivery. This is a key strategic aspect of our proposal, and what we are doing in the ClimatEvolution Zone. We are working strategically and on a regional basis, including Architecture & Design Scotland, the Key Agencies and others as well as engaging with communities and the public. In future, and taking a lead from the NPF4 process so as not to be premature, a key objective for the ClimatEvolution Zone will be to establish clearer governance structures for this significant and transformational area of change. Indeed, community representatives have promoted this to us as well as Key Agencies. We hope that, at the right time and in the right capacity and level, Scottish Government colleagues could participate in such governance structures and way of working, not least to champion some of the innovation opportunities in the area and at point 3 below.
3. We are very keen to collaborate with you on innovative regulatory and delivery mechanisms, including Masterplan Consent Areas and a new approach to developer contributions and the charging levy (including linked to the mitigation of cross boundary impacts). We are interested to explore mechanisms that could support up front delivery of infrastructure (and land remediation), both in terms of identifying requirements and delivering them upfront or early in the development programme to pump prime sites for long term low carbon investment, place-making and delivery, and to ensure the highest quality outcomes. We therefore see potential and very close synergies and innovation opportunities between these delivery mechanisms and our intentions for the development of our proposals, technical work, business cases, and opportunities for financial innovation, partnership and the co-ordinated delivery of the strategic projects within the ClimatEvolution Zone.

Overall, we feel that there is an exciting opportunity for alignment and joint working here. By working closely together on plan-making, place-making and decision-taking, as well as more widely, we could collaborate in an innovative exemplar for how to improve existing as well as deliver high quality new places.

To do this we want to follow the Place Principle to work together, enable strategic partnerships, and manage positive change, so we can deliver multiple benefits for people, places, the environment, climate and economy.

At the appropriate time we would therefore welcome further engagement with you on our National Development proposal as the National Planning Framework 4 processes progress.

For and behalf of

Link to ClimatEvolution consultation material:
[ClimatEvolution SPG Consultation | Local Development Plan | East Lothian Council](#)

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 23 February 2021

BY: Executive Director for Council Resources

SUBJECT: Amendment to East Lothian Council's Polling Place Scheme

8

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Council support to formally amend East Lothian Council's Polling Place Scheme in respect of EL3D polling district.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to approve the permanent amendment to the polling scheme for the East Lothian Constituency for polling district EL3D.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Macmerry Village Hall is in a poor state of repair and, as such, an alternative polling place was sought to serve the electorate in this polling district.
- 3.2 It is proposed that Macmerry Miners' Welfare Club be used as the permanent polling place. The property is in a central location and has good facilities and voter access.
- 3.3 Local Councillors have been advised in relation to the proposal and none expressed any reservation.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct policy obligations associated with this report.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial - None
6.2 Personnel - None
6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 The existing Polling Scheme was approved at Council meeting on 11 December 2018 following the Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

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REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 23 February 2021

BY: Executive Director for Council Resources

SUBJECT: Appointments to Committees, Partnerships and Outside Bodies

9

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek approval of proposed changes to the membership of committees and partnerships, and representation on outside bodies.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council approves the following appointments to committees, as proposed by the Administration, to take immediate effect:

- Cabinet: Spokesperson for Health and Social Care – Councillor Akhtar
- Cabinet: Spokesperson for Education and Children’s Services – Councillor Dugdale
- Audit and Governance Committee – Councillor Forrest
- Education Committee Convener – Councillor Dugdale
- Education Committee Depute Convener – Councillor Goodfellow
- Planning Committee – Councillor Forrest

- 2.2 That Council approves the following appointments to boards/partnerships, to take immediate effect:

- East Lothian Licensing Board Convener – Councillor McMillan
- East Lothian Integration Joint Board Convener (until 31 March 2021) – Councillor Akhtar
- East Lothian Integration Joint Board (renewal of term of office) – Councillors Akhtar, Kempson and O’Donnell

- 2.3 That Council approves the following appointments to outside bodies, as proposed by the Administration, to take immediate effect:

- NHS Lothian – Councillor Akhtar
- CoSLA Board: Health and Social Care – Councillor Akhtar
- CoSLA Board: Children and Young People – Councillor Dugdale

- Children’s Hearings Scotland: East Lothian Area Support Team – Councillor Dugdale

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Administration is proposing a number of changes to its membership of Council committees, as set out below:

- Cabinet: Health and Social Care Spokesperson – Councillor Akhtar (replacing Councillor O’Donnell)
- Cabinet: Education and Children’s Services Spokesperson – Councillor Dugdale (replacing Councillor Akhtar)
- Audit and Governance Committee – Councillor Forrest (replacing Councillor Dugdale)
- Education Committee – Councillor Dugdale to be appointed as Convener (replacing Councillor Akhtar)
- Education Committee – Councillor Goodfellow to be appointed as Depute Convener (replacing Councillor Dugdale)
- Planning Committee – Councillor Forrest (replacing Councillor O’Donnell)

3.2 The Administration is also proposing that Councillor McMillan replaces Councillor Dugdale as Convener of the East Lothian Licensing Board. As the new Cabinet Spokesperson for Health and Social Care, it is proposed that Councillor Akhtar replaces Councillor O’Donnell as Chair of the East Lothian Integration Joint Board until 31 March 2021, when a new Chair will be appointed by NHS Lothian for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023.

3.3 In accordance with the East Lothian Integration Joint Board’s Integration Scheme, the Council is required to renew the term of office for Council-appointed Members every three years. The Council is therefore asked to approve the renewal of the terms of office for Councillors Akhtar, Kempson and O’Donnell (Councillor Gilbert’s term of office does not require renewal at this time).

3.4 The Administration also proposes to make the following appointments to outside bodies:

- NHS Lothian – Councillor Akhtar (replacing Councillor O’Donnell)
- CoSLA Board: Health and Social Care – Councillor Akhtar (replacing Councillor O’Donnell)
- CoSLA Board: Education and Young People – Councillor Dugdale (replacing Councillor Akhtar)
- Children’s Hearings Scotland Area Support Team – Councillor Dugdale (replacing Councillor Akhtar)

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – Councillor Dugdale will be designated Senior Councillor status in her new role as Cabinet Spokesperson for Education and Children’s Services, and in relinquishing her Cabinet role, Councillor O’Donnell will be designated Ordinary Councillor status. The Head of Finance has confirmed that there are no budget implications arising from this change.
- 6.2 Personnel – none
- 6.3 Other – none

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 East Lothian Council Standing Orders

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